Thursday, January 29, 2026 No 29 ₹7

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DECCAN HERALD

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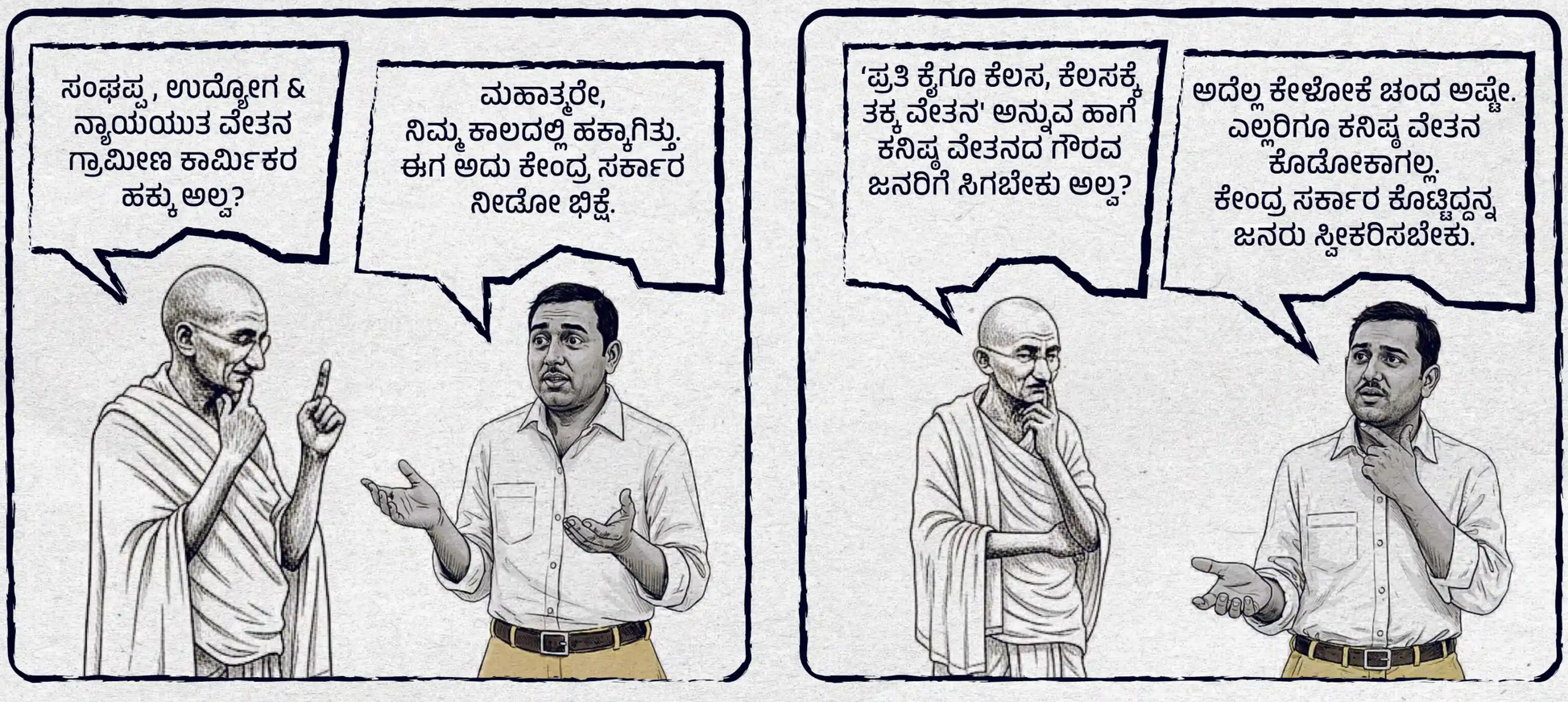
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ



ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿರುವ ವಿಬಿ-ಗ್ರಾಮ್ ಜಿ

ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತ್ರಿಗೆ ಮರಣ ಶಾಸನ!

ಮನರೇಗಾ ಪುನರ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮೇಲಿನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಭಯೋತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜನರ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಕಸಿಯುವ ಕುತಂತ್ರ ನಿಲ್ಲುವವರೆಗೂ

#ಗ್ರಾಮಸಂಗ್ರಾಮನಿರಂತರ!

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ: ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ

Lucknow court rejects citizenship plea against Rahul

LUCKNOW, DHNS: In a huge relief to former Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, a Lucknow court on Wednesday rejected a petition seeking revocation of his Indian citizenship and the registration of an FIR against him.

Rahul Gandhi

Special judge Alok Verma earlier reserved his verdict in the matter after hearings concluded in the case on January 14.

The court said it did not have jurisdiction to decide citizenship or any issue concerning it and added that the petition was a misuse of the judicial process.

The petitioner—Shishir Vignesh, a BJP leader from Karnataka—had contended that Rahul was a British citizen. He also claimed that he possessed documents that supported this contention.

The petitioner also sought the registration of an FIR against Rahul under various sections of the IPC and the Official Secrets Act, 1923, as well as the revocation of his Indian citizenship.

The case was initially heard in an MP/MLA court in Raebareli but was later transferred to Lucknow on the direction of the Allahabad High Court after the petitioner apprehended a threat to his life there.

Jana Sena panel to probe MLA accused of exploitation

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Jana Sena has directed its Railway Koduru MLA, Arava Sridhar, to step back from party activities amid sexual exploitation allegations levelled by a married woman.

Party supremo Pawan Kalyan also appointed a three-member internal committee — consisting of T Siva Shankar, Thamballapalli Ramadevi, and T C Varun — to investigate the allegations.

Sridhar must submit his explanation within seven days, after which the panel will report to the party leadership for a final decision.

A video surfaced online Tuesday showing the woman accusing Sridhar of sexually exploiting her for over a year under false promises of marriage. She claimed she first messaged him on Facebook to congratulate him on his 2024 election win. Sridhar allegedly exploited her with job promises, leading to repeated harassment, sexual exploitation, and five forced abortions after pregnancies, spanning a year and a half.

Sridhar denied the claims on Wednesday.

Mystery over 'Korean' online friend of girl found dead

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Mystery surrounds the death of a 16-year-old girl in Kerala after a note found in her schoolbag referred to the death of a "Korean friend" she had allegedly met through social media.

The girl's family, however, said they were unaware of any such online friendship, prompting police to probe the possibility of her being targeted by online rackets.

Adithya, a Plus One student from Kakkad, a rural area near Kochi, was found dead in a quarry pond near her home on Tuesday morning. She had left home for school earlier in the day. Preliminary findings indicate death by drowning, and police suspect suicide.

The note recovered from her bag stated that she was deeply distressed by the death of her friend from Korea. Investigators also found handwritten notes in the Korean language among her belongings. Police said a detailed examination of her mobile phone and social media accounts is expected to provide crucial leads.

'Castles in the air': Supreme Court raps states over stray dog crisis

Orders to step up sterilisation, fencing and shelter facilities across country

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on state governments for failing to comply with its directions to enhance stray dog sterilisation capacity, saying, "They are all building castles in the air."

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria cautioned states against making vague statements while hearing a suo motu matter on stray dogs.

Expressing its unhappiness over the progress made, the bench said the states were engaged in "storytelling".

"They are all building castles in the air. None of the states have provided data on stray dog bites, except Assam," the bench said while hearing senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal, the amicus curiae, who listed the initiatives taken by different states and flagged deficiencies.

The court also expressed surprise over the data on dog bites in Assam. "Look at the statistics of bites. It is astonishing. In 2024, there were 1.66 lakh cases. And in January 2025 alone, there were 20,900."

The bench said that states cannot make vague statements. "We are going to pass strong strictures against states that make vague averments."

POOR PROGRESS

- SC warns states against vague claims in stray dog case
- Says only Assam provided bite data, others engaged in 'storytelling'
- Unhappy with states' non-compliance on stray dog control

The SC emphasised, "Every public building should be fenced, not only because of stray dogs or other animals but also to protect the property from theft."

It found that states have engaged in "storytelling and nothing concrete appears to have been done on the ground".

The amicus curiae pointed out that some states have taken steps in consonance with the top court's direction, but there was still a long way to go for total compliance.

The governments will have to step up animal birth control (ABC) facilities, ramp up sterilisation of stray dogs, set up dog pounds (animal shelters), fence up institutional areas and remove stray animals from roads and highways, the advocate said.

Referring to Bihar, Agarwal said there are 34 ABC centres which claim to have sterilised 20,648 dogs. However, they have not specified the daily sterilisation capacity or the period to which this figure pertains, he noted.

"The state should have done a complete audit of ABC centres. If there are more than six lakh dogs in the state, sterilisation of 20,648 dogs is totally insufficient. Ninety-one dogs are presently lodged in the pounds. The affidavit does not indicate in how many institutional areas the survey has been done to see if there are fences, boundary walls, etc," Agarwal submitted.

Advocate Manish Kumar, appearing for the Bihar government, said the state was putting measures in place and that substantial progress would be achieved within three months.

The court posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

'We know what's happening': SC to hear plea against UGC's new rules

Plea claims UGC has non-inclusive definition of caste-based bias

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A group of 'Ekdandi sadhus' stage a protest against the University Grants Commission's recently notified 'Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulations, 2026', in Prayagraj, on Wednesday. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to take up on January 29 pleas challenging the University Grants Commission (UGC) order on "Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Regulations, 2026", which restricted caste-based discrimination grievance mechanisms to SC/ST and OBC categories only.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi would consider the petition filed by Rahul Dewan and others, Mritunjay Tiwari, and Vineet Jindal.

The plea said the UGC had adopted a non-inclusionary definition of caste-based discrimination and excluded certain categories from institutional protection. Others filed pleas making similar claims.

A counsel for Dewan and others made a mention before the CJI-led bench, seeking an urgent hearing on the ground that there was a possibility of discrimination. "We know what's happening. Make sure that the defects are cured. We will list it," the bench said.

The plea filed by advocate Vineet Jindal sought appropriate writ, order, or direction from the apex court restraining the respondents — the Union of India (UOI) and the UGC — from enforcing or acting upon Regulation 3(c) of the regulations in its present form.

The UGC notified the regulations on January 13, superseding its Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulations, 2012. The stated objective of the regulations is to foster equity, inclusion, and a discrimination-free academic environment across higher-education institutions in India.

A plea filed by Mrityunjay Tiwari through advocates Neeraj Singh and Satyam Pandey sought an order to ensure that equal-opportunity centres, equity helplines, inquiry mechanisms, and ombudsperson proceedings under the 2026 Regulations were made available in a non-discriminatory and caste-neutral manner, pending appropriate amendment or reconsideration of Regulation 3(c).

The plea further sought an order directing the respondents to read down and suitably amend Regulation 3(c) to define "caste-based discrimination" in a caste-neutral, inclusive, and constitutionally compliant manner, extending protection and grievance redressal mechanisms to all persons subjected to discrimination on the basis of caste.

Former MP Kunwar Haribansh Singh and others also filed a similar plea.

KARAN BHUSHAN SINGH
BJP lawmaker from UP

"I urge the UGC to reconsider the regulations, respect public sentiments and make necessary improvements so that no caste-based animosity is allowed to take root. Our educational institutions cannot be turned into centres of caste conflict. We want to move forward together, taking everyone along.

CPM

"This new regulation is confined only to universities and their affiliated colleges, and is not enforceable in IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and other similar bodies. It is imperative that the government address this serious lacuna and extend effective equity mechanisms to these institutions as well. The constitution of equity committees should not be left to the whims and fancies of the head of the institution. Instead, it must be carried out through democratically elected representatives of students, faculty, and non-teaching staff to ensure credibility and accountability.

MAYAWATI
BSP chief

"Some provisions of the new UGC rules to form 'equity committees' in government colleges and private universities to resolve caste-based discrimination are being opposed by only those from the general category who have a casteist mentality, terming them conspiratorial and discriminatory. This is absolutely not appropriate. It would have been better if everyone had been taken into confidence before implementing such rules.

General to minority? Top court flags NEET-PG 'fraud'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday took exception to the conversion of two general-category candidates to Buddhism in an apparent bid to secure postgraduate medical course seats under the minority quota.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi felt that the move amounted to "another way of fraud", saying such actions were attempts to "snatch the rights of bona fide minority-community candidates".

Counsel for the petitioners contended that they converted to Buddhism and produced certificates issued by the concerned authority claiming minority status. The bench sought to know whether the petitioners belonged to the

Punia caste, which could be a Scheduled Caste category, but could also be Jat, part of the general category. The counsel replied they were Jat and had converted to Buddhism.

"Then how can you become a minority? This is another way of fraud. Do you wish to snatch the rights of genuine bona fide minorities?" the bench asked.

The court pointed out that the petitioners belonged to one of the richest, best-located upper-caste communities, holding agricultural land and other facilities. Counsel for the petitioners insisted that they had genuinely adopted Buddhism.

"Don't compel us to make further comments," the SC told the counsel. It noted that the candidates had applied for NEET-PG under the general category and claimed they did not belong to the economically weaker sections. It also asked how they were issued minority certificates.

The court said the certificates issued by the sub-divisional officer required a deeper probe by higher authorities, especially given the fact that the petitioners had appeared in NEET-PG 2025 as general-category candidates and categorically stated they did not belong to economically weaker sections of society.

The bench directed the chief secretary of Haryana to provide details of the guidelines for issuing minority certificates. "Is it permissible for a general-category candidate, who is above the economically weaker sections and who, in the 2025 examination, disclosed their identity as a general-category candidate, to be treated as a member of the Buddhist community? If not, on what basis did the authority issue this certificate?" it asked.

It said that further directions would depend on the status report the state of Haryana would submit within two weeks.

New UGC rules against caste bias put BJP in a political bind

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CATCH-22

- The row has put BJP in a fix ahead of key Assembly elections this year and UP polls in 2027
- Protest spearheaded by upper-caste groups in Hindi heartland state
- Controversy has the potential to impact electoral outcomes

The protest over the recent regulations notified by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to curb caste discrimination on campuses has put the ruling BJP in a catch-22 situation, even as the government attempts to allay concerns among general category students.

A caste-based polarisation, especially among the youth, that pits foundational constituents of the BJP's political edifice — the upper castes and Other Backward Classes — on opposite sides of the fence is something the party would want to avoid ahead of half a dozen Assembly elections this year and the crucial Uttar Pradesh polls in early 2027.

The online campaign against the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, is gathering steam. There have also been reports of sporadic protests in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

The regulations define caste-based discrimination as "discrimination only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes". It is also obligatory for institutions to set up an Equal Opportunity Centre, an Equity Committee and a helpline on their campuses.

Those opposing the provisions contend that the definition of "discrimination" makes the regulation open to misuse against general category students.

The UGC guidelines to promote equity in educational institutions were first published in 2012. It defined discrimination in much broader terms, like depriving students on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, gender, ethnicity and disability.

The 2026 rules were mandated by Supreme Court directives issued in September last year during the hearing on a plea by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, students who died by suicide after facing discrimination. The petitioners had pleaded that the 2012 UGC regulations on promoting equity in higher educational institutions had been ineffectual.

The SC then asked the UGC to come up with a new set of framework to control caste bias in higher education. The matter is currently pending before the SC and is scheduled to come up for hearing in March.

The campaign against the guidelines is being spearheaded by upper-caste groups, especially in the Hindi heartland states. After the mandal-kamandal rupture in national politics in 1990s, this electoral block shifted decisively towards the BJP in the north, west and central India.

In the last two decades, the BJP has sought to expand its Hindutva marquee to accommodate other sections, especially backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Any signs of stress within this broad and electorally successful coalition, which pits one social group against another, have the potential to impact poll outcomes. This is precisely why Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been quick to assuage concerns raised by protesters.

In the past too, the Modi government has been nimble on its feet to react to matters related to social justice that could have political ramifications. In 2021, it passed a constitutional amendment bill restoring the states' rights to identify Socially and Educationally Backward Communities after a contrarian interpretation of the Constitution 102 (Amendment) Act by the Supreme Court.

Fight between real, fake Hindu: Seer leaves 'Maagh Mela'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Hindu seer Swami Avimukteshwarananda on Wednesday attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as he left the 'Magh Mela' (an annual ritual on the bank of the Ganga), saying that the fight today was between "real and fake Hindus".

He has been on a protest against the refusal of the authorities to allow him to proceed to the 'Sangam' (the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Sarswati rivers), at Prayagraj, in his chariot for the holy dip on Mauni Amavasya a few days back, and alleged manhandling of his disciples by the police.

Earlier, the authorities tried to placate the seer by offering to take him to the Ganga for a bath in his palanquin, but he rejected the offer, insisting on an apology.

"Sanatani people are being attacked today... a conspiracy is being hatched to end their religious rights and prevent them from performing the rituals... ancient temples are being demolished," the seer told reporters before leaving the Mela with his disciples.

He said that he refused to accept "injustice" and would wait for justice to be delivered. "Whatever happened at the Magh Mela has shaken my soul," he added.

The seer said that the administration had sent a proposal to him on Tuesday evening, offering to take him to Ganga with due respect and also shower flower petals on him. "Since they did not apologise for assaulting my disciples, I refused to accept their offer," the seer said.

Avimukteshwarananda also lashed out against Adityanath and said that his government had double standards on treating the saints and seers.

"What happened during the Mughal period is happening today," he said. The seer also said that "anti-sanatana" people had no right to remain in power.

Additions, deletions part of voter roll revision: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

People during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bankura district of West Bengal. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said additions and deletions are part of the electoral roll revision exercise undertaken by the Election Commission. Taking up a batch of petitions challenging the validity of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi emphasised that the possibility of Aadhaar forgery cannot be a ground to reject the biometric identifier.

Noting that even passports are processed through private agencies performing public duties, the bench said, "If a document is recognised by statute, it cannot be discarded merely because a private entity is involved in its issuance."

As senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners, alleged mass deletions from the voter list, the bench said, "Additions and deletions are part of the exercise."

In their rejoinder arguments, the petitioners questioned the transparency, timing and legal basis of the SIR.

The court heard arguments from Kapil Sibal and other senior advocates, including Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Vijay Hansaria and Prashant Bhushan, as well as petitioner-in-person Yogendra Yadav.

Hansaria, supporting the exercise, argued that Aadhaar cannot be relied upon to determine citizenship, pointing out that under the Aadhaar Act, even foreign nationals residing in India for 182 days are eligible for enrolment, and that the statute expressly clarifies Aadhaar does not confer citizenship or domicile.

Hansaria maintained that no petitioner had sought the inclusion of Aadhaar as proof of citizenship and argued that the court could not issue a mandamus without such a prayer.

Sibal argued that while the poll panel has plenary powers under Article 324 to conduct elections, the determination of citizenship lies exclusively with the Union government under the Citizenship Act.

The court said exclusion from rolls does not amount to loss of citizenship per se.

Sibal stressed the "enormity" of the SIR exercise, claiming that nearly 1.82 crore voters were subjected to scrutiny without any data showing large-scale illegal migration in Bihar, where the exercise was carried out last year ahead of the Assembly elections.

"How many illegal migrants were actually found? Not one," Sibal said, arguing that mass deletions close to elections could undermine democratic participation.

While the bench noted that deletions are inherent to roll correction, Sibal countered that annual revisions already exist and that a wholesale special revision required strong justification supported by data.

The poll panel has denied allegations of political motive, stating that deletions occurred across party lines.

MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal Chief Minister

"If not today, I will surely go to Delhi tomorrow, or the day after. That's because you cannot expect to snatch people's rights and expect me to sit quietly. If required, I will stand in court. If permitted, I too will plead for the people, not as a lawyer but as a citizen. I have preserved all documents and evidence required for this case.

ED attaches Rs 1,800-cr assets linked to Anil Ambani group

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached fresh assets worth more than Rs 1,800 crore as part of its ongoing money laundering investigation against the companies of Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani.

With the latest action, the total value of attachment by the federal probe agency in the case now stands at about Rs 12,000 crore.

The ED said in a statement that it has issued four separate provisional orders in this context under the PMLA.

The attached properties include bank deposits, shareholding in unquoted investments and some immovable properties, it said.

The attachments have been done in the cases related to Reliance Home Finance Ltd, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd, Yes Bank "fraud" as well as an alleged fraud involving Reliance Communication Ltd.

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The Power of Good

Djokovic gets lucky, to meet Sinner in semi-final

Injured Musetti forced to retire from Australian Open

Page 15

Ruckus in Assembly: Is govt snooping on governor, BJP asks

Gehlot is receiving instructions from Delhi: HK Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy tearing the rule book in the Council, which also witnessed chaos. DH PHOTO

The Opposition BJP targeted the Congress government, accusing it of snooping on Lok Bhavan after Law Minister HK Patil stated that Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot was receiving instructions from New Delhi over the phone.

This exchange during a discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address created a ruckus in the Assembly.

The issue came up when senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar recalled the proceedings from January 2011 when then Governor HR Bharadwaj laid his speech to the joint session of the legislature, when the then LoP Siddaramaiah asked him not to deliver the address. He said this to buttress his point that Governors in the past, too, did not read full speeches.

Responding to this, Patil said, "We'll have to talk about how phone calls come from Delhi and the Governor is made to leave from here."

The Opposition latched on to this. "Is the government tapping phones?" Suresh Kumar asked. "Is the Lok Bhavan's phone being tapped? The law minister has said this earlier as well. He should explain," BJP's V Sunil Kumar said.

Intervening, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge charged that calls also come from Keshava Krupa, the Karnataka headquarters of the RSS. "What about the Governor's insult to the Anthem?" he asked, seeking to turn the tables by referring to Gehlot exiting the Assembly last week, even before it was played.

Patil said the Ministry of Home Affairs, which manages gubernatorial affairs, should have clarified. "They (BJP) accept that Bharadwaj listened to Siddaramaiah. But they can't digest it when I say that (Gehlot) listens to the Centre," he said.

▸ Assembly, Page 6

Quickly

Special court relief to CM in MUDA case

In a relief to CM Siddaramaiah and three others, including his wife B M Parvathi, the special court for cases involving MPs/MLAs accepted the B report, giving a clean chit in the MUDA alternative sites allotment case.

Details on Page 5

Factory output grows fastest in 2 yrs: Govt data

India's industrial production growth accelerated to over two-year high of 7.8% in December driven by robust consumption demands, as per official data released on Wednesday.

Details on Page 13

SC irked at states in stray dogs case

The Supreme Court rapped state governments for not complying with its directions to enhance stray dog sterilisation capacity, saying, "They are all building castles in the air". Expressing its unhappiness, the court further said state governments were engaged in "storytelling".

Ajit Pawar dies in plane crash

Low visibility: Chartered flight with Maha DyCM, 4 others crashes in Baramati

8:18 am
- Aircraft first comes in contact with Baramati ATC
- At this time, aircraft within 30 nautical miles
- Pilots advised to descend in 'visual meteorological conditions'
- Pilots report they are on final approach of Runway 11
- Pilots say runway not in sight; initiate a go-around

8:43 am
- Aircraft gets clearance to land on Runway 11
- Aircraft doesn't give a read-back of landing clearance

8:44 am
- ATC sees flames around threshold of Runway 11
- Wreckage located on the left side of runway

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP national president Ajit Pawar and four others were killed when a chartered plane crashed at the Baramati Airport in Pune district on Wednesday morning amid low visibility due to fog.

Besides Pawar (66), others who died were pilot-in-command Captain Sumit Kapur, Captain Shambhavi Pathak, the second-in-command, flight attendant Pinky Mali and personal security officer Vidhit Jadhav.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, who is the Pune MP, both confirmed visibility issues.

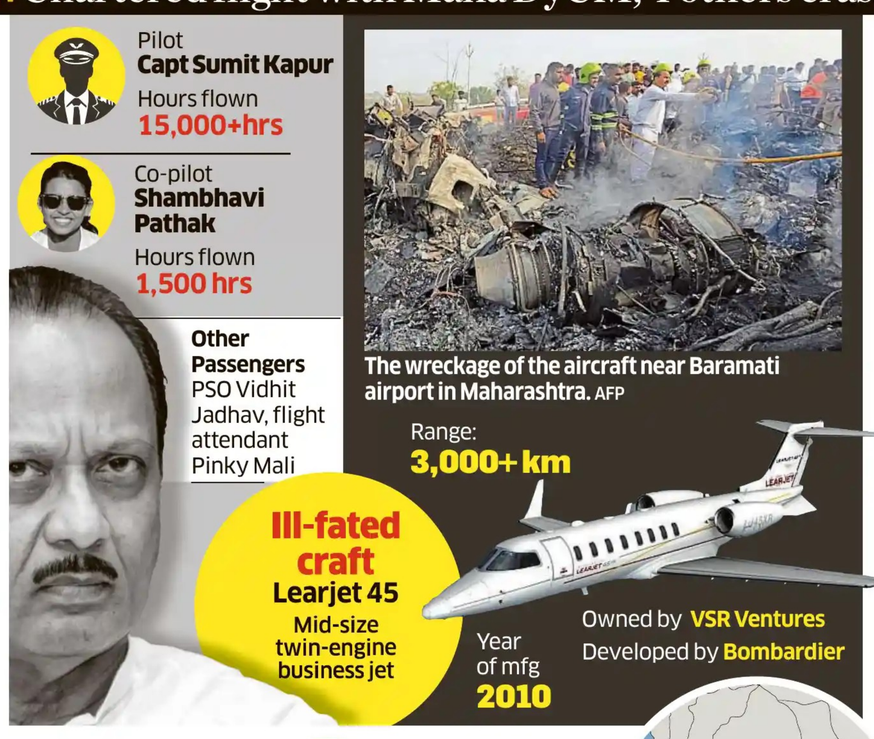
According to Naidu, preliminary information suggests that there was poor visibility over Baramati Airport, which lacks an instrument landing system.

"Preliminary information suggests that visibility was poor when the aircraft was trying to land," he said, adding that DGCA and the AAIB had been asked to probe the air crash.

"When ATC Baramati asked the pilot whether the runway was in sight, the response was negative, following which the aircraft executed a go-around.

"During the second landing attempt, ATC again asked whether the runway was in sight, to which the pilot responded in the affirmative," the minister said.

▸ Ajit Pawar, Page 6
Related reports, Page 7



The wreckage of the aircraft near Baramati airport in Maharashtra. AFP

The crash site at Baramati near Pune

Mamata calls for probe under SC

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the crash, saying Ajit Pawar was planning to leave the BJP-led coalition.

Details on Page 7

Questions over future of NCP unification efforts

MUMBAI, DHNS

The sudden demise of Ajit Pawar has left the larger NCP family grappling with a difficult question: What next?

For the two NCP factions—the Nationalist Congress Party and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) — the tragedy poses the toughest challenge since their split in 2023.

The answer, many believe, lies with Sharad Pawar. The senior Pawar, who founded the NCP in 1999, has indicated he plans to retire from electoral politics after his Rajya Sabha term ends in April.

"I will have to decide whether to go to the Rajya Sabha again. I will not contest the Lok Sabha, nor will I contest any election, as I have announced earlier. I have already contested 14 polls. How many times should I contest? The young generation needs to be given an opportunity," the veteran politician said ahead of his 85th birthday in December.

▸ What next for NCP, Page 6

President calls for unity on national issues in Parl address

NEW DELHI, DHNS: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday asked MPs to stand united on issues of 'national interest' like 'Viksit Bharat', 'Atma Nirbharta, and 'swadeshi' among others to infuse new energy into India's progress, even as Opposition lawmakers shouted slogans as she mentioned VB-G RAM G Act while demanding the restoration of MGNREGA.

In her nearly one-hour customary address to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at the start of Budget Session, President Murmu also said that India remains the 'fastest growing major economy' despite 'various global crises' and moving forward on the path of 'Reforms Express' while playing the 'role of a bridge in the world' amid 'complex global circumstances.

Details on Page 7

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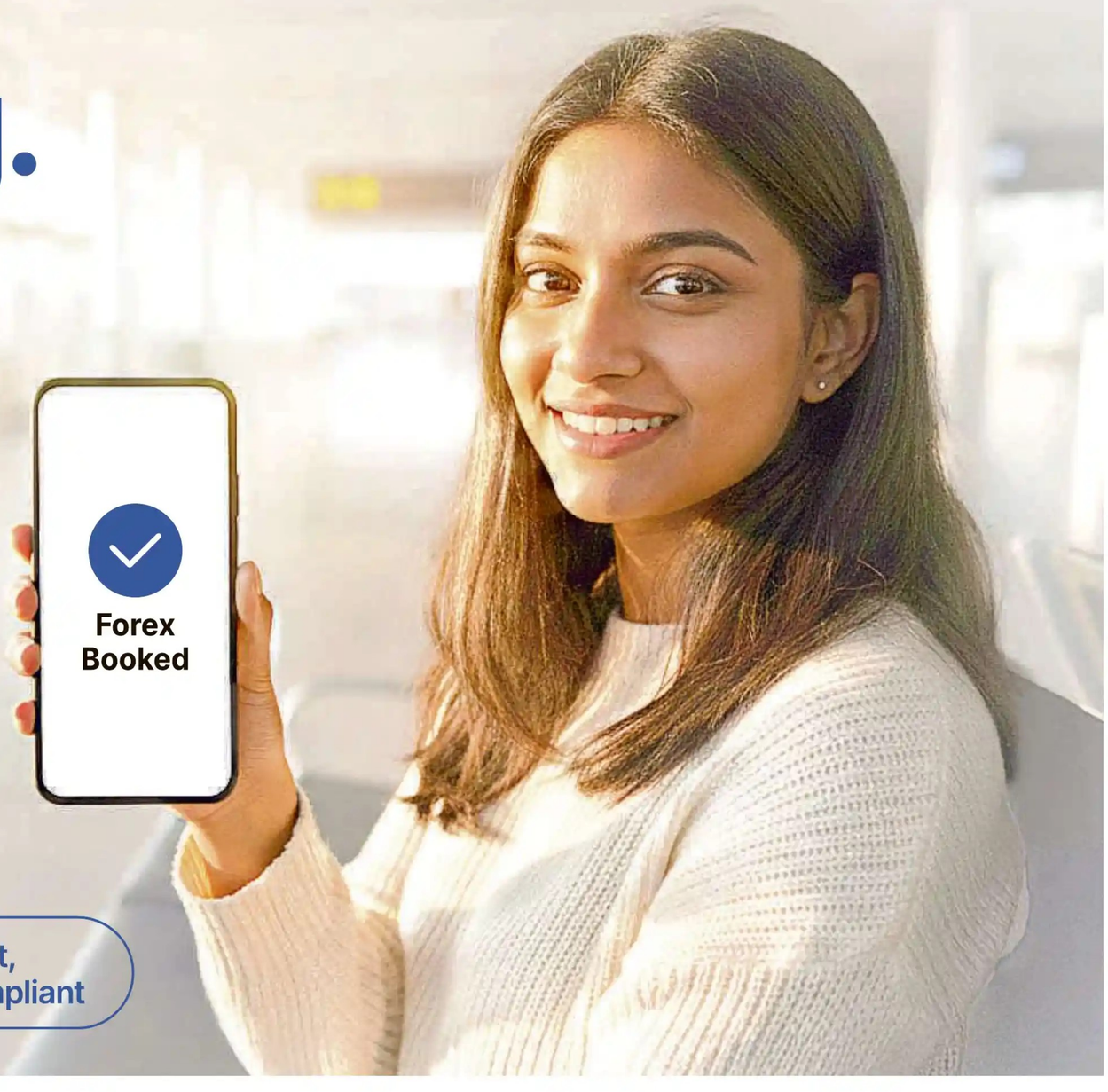

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GBA to form task force to stop unauthorised constructions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to form two task forces for road widening and stopping unauthorised constructions in the city.

During a review meeting, Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to set up task forces in all five city corporations.

The move is likely to help citizens, as both road widening and stopping unauthorised construction have rarely received official attention due to implementation challenges.

Although the state government allocates Rs 3,000 crore every year, much of the grants are spent on relaying the same roads. Even though widening is critical to ease bottlenecks, the GBA does not allocate funds for it or for land acquisition. This has contributed to congestion, especially in outer areas.

No GBA officer has made genuine attempts to stop unauthorised construction even when deviations are over 50 to 100% of the sanctioned plan.

GBA boss M Maheshwar Rao at a meeting with senior officers on Wednesday.

During the meeting, officials also discussed measures to prevent wastewater from entering the K-100 rajakaluve.

"Current points of wastewater inflow should be identified and fully controlled. On-site inspections must be conducted where coloured water from dyeing units or blood-mixed water from slaughterhouses enters the canal," the chief commissioner told engineers.

Traffic police have identified 101 locations where pedestrian overbridges are needed for safe road crossings. Rao instructed officials to inspect these locations and begin construction wherever feasible.

Fire breaks out at R-Day waste dump near MG Road Metro

Officials warn of fire risk from remaining waste

BENGALURU, DHNS

A fire broke out on Wednesday afternoon at a waste dump of dry leaves and debris in General Cariappa Memorial Park, next to the Metro boulevard on MG Road.

Thick smoke engulfed the area and surrounded the Purple Line Metro tracks.

The fire is suspected to have started in a heap of dry leaves mixed with plastic and paper waste dumped after the Republic Day celebrations held two days ago at the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground.

The exact cause is not known, but eyewitnesses denied foul play.

Namma Metro maintenance staff, who were cleaning the boulevard, rushed to the spot after the fire was detected around 3 pm.

Much of the initial firefighting involved staff carrying buckets of water from a distance. As the fire spread, Metro personnel used extinguishers, but the four powder-based extinguishers were ineffective.

Fire service personnel rush to control the blaze next to the Metro boulevard on MG Road. (R) Metro maintenance workers rush buckets of water to douse the fire. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

About 10 minutes after eyewitnesses reported the incident, fire personnel arrived. It took about 20 minutes to control the fire, but smoke continued to emanate for over an hour.

Eyewitnesses expressed concern the fire could recur, as large quantities of dry leaves, plastic and paper waste remain dumped at the site.

"Unless the waste is cleared completely, there is a risk of similar incidents," they said.

While the park is closed to the public, the MG Road boulevard sees visitors.

Some suspect the fire may have been triggered by a lit cigarette thrown nearby.

Silk Board double-decker flyover to open by end-Feb

Traffic police verification pending before opening

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city's first double-decker flyover at Silk Board Junction is nearing completion.

The Rs 449-crore project, aimed at easing traffic congestion, is expected to be fully operational by the end of February.

While major portions of the flyover opened in 2024, one stretch was delayed due to the installation of a 42-metre steel bridge over the existing roadway.

Workers are finishing the concrete slab casting, with BMRCL officials aiming to complete civil works by the end of February.

The flyover, connecting HSR Layout with BTM Layout, faced delays in installation of a 42-metre steel girder over the existing infrastructure. Its near completion has now raised hopes among commuters about its opening.

"I travel from Banashankari, and Silk Board is the worst part of my journey. Even a 10-minute reduction in wait time would be a reward.

"Silk Board is a nightmare every evening. If this ramp opens, vehicles towards HSR and Hosur Road will move faster. Right now, everyone is bunched at the same signal, which makes no sense," said Lavanya K, an officegoer.

Work underway on the Central Silk Board double-decker flyover, nearing completion, on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

Once operational, the flyover will allow traffic to bypass Silk Board Junction, reducing congestion.

"Avoiding the signal from Silk Board to BTM Layout will be a huge relief," said Vijay Das, a regular commuter.

"The flyover from the Banashankari side is already operational and helpful, but this HSR connection is the missing link," said another commuter.

Final stages: BMRCL

BMRCL officials said the work is in its final stages, with the completion date pending police verification.

"Once the contractor finishes the final touches, the traffic police will inspect the structure before it is opened to the general public," said a BMRCL official.

DCP Gopal M Byakod (Traffic, South) confirmed that the flyover will be fully operational by the end of February, easing congestion from Central Silk Board Junction to BTM Layout, HSR Layout, and Bellandur.

First PM E-Drive contract: BMTC to get 1,750 e-buses

BENGALURU, DHNS

The union government has awarded the first contract under the PM E-Drive Scheme for the deployment of electric buses in Bengaluru.

EKA Mobility, a Pune-headquartered EV manufacturer, and Ahmedabad-based mobility services company Chartered Speed have secured the Letter of Confirmation of Quantity (LOCQ) to deploy 1,750 e-buses under the scheme.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), under the Ministry of Power, had opened a mega tender on November 6, 2025, to lease 10,900 e-buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.

At 4,500, Bengaluru will get the lion's share, Delhi 2,800 e-buses, Hyderabad 2,000, Ahmedabad 1,000, and Surat 600.

The e-bus procurement drive is being billed as India's largest-ever.

Under the scheme, the Centre will offer subsidies of Rs 35 lakh per standard bus (10-12 metres), Rs 25 lakh (midi bus, 8-10 metres) and Rs 20 lakh (minibus, 6-8 metres). Only e-buses with an ex-factory price of less than Rs 2 crore are incentivised.

The induction of new buses will help the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) expand its fleet to 10,000 vehicles over the next two years. It currently has 6,740 vehicles, including 1,700 e-buses.

With the new inductions, BMTC plans to expand its fleet to 10,000 buses in two years; it currently has 6,740, including 1,700 e-buses.

In a statement, Chartered Speed and EKA Mobility said the allocation of 1,750 buses accounts nearly 39% of Bengaluru's total planned electric bus induction of 4,500 buses under PM E-Drive.

"Bengaluru has emerged as one of India's leading cities in electric public transport adoption, with the BMTC progressively expanding its electric bus network in line with Karnataka's clean mobility vision and the Government of India's de-carbonisation roadmap," the companies said.

Under the contract, EKA Mobility will manufacture the buses, while Chartered Speed will create charging infrastructure at BMTC depots, deploy drivers and maintain the vehicles. The BMTC will deploy conductors.

Quality concerns

Last October, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy flagged the "poor performance" of e-buses leased by the BMTC under earlier central schemes, saying they were giving the public transporter a "bad name".

He pointed to frequent technical failures, battery-related breakdowns, rising accidents, poor maintenance, inadequate driver training, shortage of buses and drivers, and repeated driver strikes.

Reddy had called for strict binding clauses in future tenders to ensure GCC operators train drivers before commencing operations. He also sought a joint compliance monitoring mechanism between State Transport Undertakings and the ministry.

It is not clear whether these concerns have been addressed in the new contract.

Responding to queries from *DH*, Reddy said the tender process was handled entirely by the ministry and that the state had no role in it.

BMTC officials also declined to comment.

MP opposes BMLTA Rule 24, rejects retrospective nod for Rs 1 lakh cr projects

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore South MP, LS Tejasvi Surya, has objected to Rule 24 of the draft BMLTA Rules, which retrospectively approves all prior projects and plans, including the controversial tunnel road project.

On January 3, the Urban Development Department (UDD) published the draft rules for governing the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) — conceptualised on the lines of Transport for London (TfL) — three years after the law was passed. Citizens were given 30 days to file objections and suggestions.

Tejasvi Surya

Rule 24 came under the scanner as it states that all previous decisions, plans, operations and pending proceedings on the date of commencement of these rules shall be deemed to have been construed under the BMLTA Act.

This meant that projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, including the tunnel road, will not come under the BMLTA's ambit.

Critics argued that all urban mobility decisions and projects announced after the act came into force must necessarily seek approval under Section 19 of the BMLTA Act.

Joining the debate, Surya shot off a letter to the UDD secretary on Wednesday, expressing his objections to Rule 24.

Citing Section 19, he said the provision was designed to ensure oversight and fiscal responsibility in large-scale infrastructure decisions.

"...This provision risks legitimising megaprojects valued at nearly Rs 1 lakh crore without due process, institutional scrutiny or accountability, undermining the very purpose of the BMLTA," he stated.

"... Given its direct conflict with the spirit, purpose and safeguards of the BMLTA Act, Rule 24 must be removed in its entirety. Retaining this provision would erode institutional credibility, weaken regulatory oversight, and compromise Bengaluru's long-term urban governance. Its deletion is essential to preserve transparency, enforce accountability, and restore public trust."

The parliamentarian urged the UDD to omit Rule 24 from the final notified rules.

For its part, the UDD has argued that the rules can only be enforced prospectively, saying it cannot seek approval of projects from the BMLTA that are already approved by the government.

New passenger assistance services at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced Care by BLR, a personalised passenger assistance service.

The Care by BLR portfolio includes meet-and-assist, porter and luggage services, valet parking, luxury limousine services, arrival lounge access, and flower services, among others. These are available for departing, arriving and transit passengers.

The services are offered at both Terminal 1 and 2, and can be booked through the Pulse App, the official BLR Airport website, and dedicated counters at the terminals.

Spring Music Festival

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will orgainse its Annual Spring Music Festival from February 1 to 8 at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road, at 5.30 pm.

Bharat Ranga Mahotsav begins

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Nataka Academy, in association with the Government of Karnataka and the National School of Drama (NSD), Delhi, will host the eight-day drama festival 'Bharat Ranga Mahotsav' (BRM) from February 1 at Kalagrama, Mallathahalli.

The festival will stage eight plays in Indian and foreign languages, including NSD Repertory's Hindi satire 'Taj Mahal ka Tender', Kalabhi Theatre's Kannada play 'A Friend Beyond the Fence', and Bagban Theatre's Hindi production 'Yayati'.

A Ranga Parishe will run alongside, featuring street plays, theatre workshops, Yakshaghana performances, poetry recitals, musical shows, and an exhibition of sculptures and paintings.

While Bengaluru hosts an eight-day leg, BRM spans 20 days (January 28–February 16) with over 200 productions.

The festival slogan is "One Expression, Supreme Creation", and actor and NSD alumnus Rajpal Yadav serves as this year's Rang Doot (festival ambassador).

PARAS

FARNAZ

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks for favours received. Please continue to bless us.
- Uma

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks for favours received. Please continue to bless us.
- Uma

Thanksgiving

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SANITATION GAP

Public toilet usability alarmingly poor, finds BNP audit

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), which audited 38 toilets across 21 wards over the last three months, found most were technically open but usability, dignity and safety for citizens were alarmingly poor.

The audit found these toilets were not friendly to women, persons with disabilities, elderly citizens or transgender persons.

Only 17 of the 38 toilets surveyed, or 44.7%, are fully functional and usable, while 10.5% are completely non-functional or closed. Nearly 55 per cent are partially functional, poorly maintained or unusable.

The findings also pointed to near total exclusion of persons with disabilities, with over 95% inaccessible, 92% having steps blocking entry, and none equipped with usable ramps.

The findings come as Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd prepares to participate in Swachh Survekshan, a nationwide cleanliness survey.

"Bengaluru's public toilets reflect the state of our governance, built without planning, run without accountability, and ignored until citizens speak up," the party said.

The party recommended a 30-day rectification drive in every ward to repair flush systems, taps, locks, lighting, broken fixtures and tiles, ensure water supply, install soap dispensers and carry out deep cleaning.

The audit found no dedicated toilets for transgender persons in any ward, forcing them to use women's toilets.

It also noted an acute lack of public toilets and poor visibility or identification in several wards, including Yelenahalli, Bellandur, Nagvarpalya, Kudlu and Hosapalya.

Toilets mapped

The party sought immediate mapping of all public toilets through Google Maps, supported by clear signage within 500 metres. It also demanded creation of women-safe toilets with CCTV surveillance and women caretakers.

GBA to participate in Swachh Survekshan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has appointed nodal officers in all five corporations as it plans to participate in the Swachh Survekshan campaign, a nationwide cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The Swachh Survekshan campaign has a total of 12,500 points, with 1,000 each for Open Defection Free (ODF/ODF Plus/ODF Plus Plus/Water Plus), 1,000 for garbage-free cities, and 10,500 for citizen feedback and on-ground assessment.

The preparatory meeting was chaired by GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, with the CEO of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd also present.

In the meeting, it was decided to set up 60 waste collection centres, known as kasa kiosks, soon.

Solid waste management experts are not in favour of kasa kiosks, calling them money-guzzling units with limited impact.

They insist the BSWML must fix door-to-door collection issues — coverage and punctuality — instead of focusing on secondary measures.

Women gig workers allege assault during protest against 15-minute instant services

UC workers raise concerns over work pressure and travel logistics

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gig workers at Urban Company were allegedly physically and verbally abused for protesting against the company's new instant services on Wednesday.

About 100 workers gathered at the company's HSR office to discuss new rules requiring gig workers in the 'Salon' category to deliver services in 15-minute time slots.

"When we told them how the instant services would put workers' lives in danger and raised our voice against their behaviour on social media, they blocked our ID. They use this ID-blocking to threaten employees," said Selvi, a 38-year-old beautician who joined the protest.

A promotional board advertising Urban Company's new instant services.

"When we arrived at the office to discuss the matter, we saw that they had called bouncers and would not let us in. They pushed us, touched us inappropriately, and verbally abused us. That is when I called the police," she added.

The company is soft launching instant beauty services in select neighbourhoods, gig workers told *DH*.

Salon and Hair Studio services are available in Bellandur and nearby areas in 15 minutes.

"Until recently, we had a 90-minute slot to prepare and reach the customer's house. Since this year, they have pushed us to accept 15-minute bookings. It is impossible to reach anywhere in Bengaluru within that time," said Pinki Thakur, who has worked with the company for six years.

On average, beauticians on the app make Rs 3,000 to 4,000 per day by serving about four customers.

> **PINKI THAKUR,**
> UC worker
>
> "If we take 15-minute sessions, the company provides an extra Rs 2,000 for travel. Most of us depend on autos and cabs, and booking an auto sometimes takes 15 minutes. It puts a lot of pressure on us."

"If we take 15-minute sessions, the company provides an extra Rs 2,000 for travel. Most of us depend on autos and cabs, and booking an auto sometimes takes 15 minutes. It puts a lot of pressure on us," said Pinki.

Some employees, along with the Karnataka App-Based Workers Union, plan to file a police complaint against the company for the misbehaviour.

A senior official of Urban Company said that the claims of physical assault were false and refused to comment further on the issue.

Road rage: Youth held for abusing motorist

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commercial Street Police in east Bengaluru have arrested a 25-year-old man for harassing and abusing a car driver in a case of road rage, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested man is Syed Sameer, a resident of Yarab Nagar in Banashankari. Police said Sameer worked menial jobs.

Syed Sameer

On January 26, around 1.30 pm near Halasuru Road Cross, Sameer jumped the signal on his two-wheeler and rode close to a car driven by Praveen MN, 43, of Halasuru.

When Praveen told him to ride carefully, Sameer replied, "My vehicle, my road, I will drive as I please".

When Praveen asked him to repeat the words before the police, Sameer allegedly said: "Who police? Why should I come? Who are you to ask?"

When Praveen drove away, Sameer allegedly followed and waylaid his car near Manipal Centre and began abusing him. "He hit me with his hands and threatened me," Praveen was quoted as saying in the FIR.

A video of the exchange captured by Praveen went viral on social media.

Police later arrested Sameer, who apologised for his actions in a video released by the police.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Department of Information and Public Relations, Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy and Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce: 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival; Inaugural Ceremony; Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Basavaraj Horatti, UT Khader, Rizwan Arshad, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, R Ashoka, Sadhu Kokila, Prakash Raj, Rukmini Vasanth and Narasimhulu M participate; Grand Steps, Vidhana Soudha, East Gate; 5 pm.

Seshadripuram Autonomous Pre-University College: 54th annual day programme; Seshadripuram; 9.30 am.

Vedanta Bharati: Inauguration of Vivekadeepti and Dakshinasyadarshini; Tripuravasini, Palace Grounds; 10 am.

Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL): 'Dermacon'–Dermatology Conference; Ocean Hall, Clarks Exotica Convention & Resort, Sadahalli, Ballari Road; 6 pm.

CULTURAL

Om Shri Sairam Cultural Arts Forum: 'Kala Samrat Star Award' presentation; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 2 pm.

Akhila Karnataka Makkala Koota: Republic Day and K Subhash Alva Memorial Endowment Competitions; Fort, Chamarajpet; 3 pm.

Kannada Yuvajana Sangha: Lecture on 'Haunting female characters in Shivarama Karanth's novels' by Yashaswini S; H Siddiah Road, Hombegowdanagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.6°C
Minimum	16.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	51%
Sunset (Jan 29)	6:19 pm
Sunrise (Jan 30)	6:46 am
Moonrise	1:40 pm
Moonset	2:01 am

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US Embassy flags Bengaluru theft case; domestic help arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS

A theft reported from Bengaluru led to a complaint being routed through the US Embassy, following which the Karnataka police arrested a domestic employee and recovered gold jewellery, diamonds and cash worth around Rs 1 crore.

The incident occurred on January 21 within the limits of the Jeevan Bima Nagar police station and involved a US-based couple working as software professionals in Bengaluru.

The couple, identified as Meryl Moreno and her husband Tommo Kankanian, natives of Texas, were living in a rented house in the city. While Kankanian had travelled to the United States, Meryl continued to work in Bengaluru.

Police said the theft came to light when Meryl returned home from work and found valuables missing. She informed her husband, who was overseas at the time.

As Kankanian was in the US, the matter was taken up through the US Embassy, which forwarded a complaint directly to the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP&IGP), Karnataka.

Based on the complaint, police arrested Chandan Raul, 35, a native of West Bengal, who had been employed as a domestic help at their house for about a year. He allegedly decamped with diamond and gold jewellery along with $600 in cash.

During investigation, police found that Raul was attempting to convert the US dollars into Indian currency and flee to his native place. The stolen jewellery, diamonds and cash were recovered following his arrest.

Amruthahalli police bust drug racket, seize Rs 4-crore hydro ganja; 10 arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amruthahalli police busted an inter-state drug racket by arresting 10 people and seized hydro ganja worth Rs 4 crore.

The arrested are Kushal, Sagar, Shashank, Wilson, Aashir Ali, Sajjad, Riyaz, Shiyab, Nisar and Abhinav. Efforts are on to nab the kingpin, police said.

Police said the accused sourced drugs from Thailand and smuggled them by air, selling them across Bengaluru to students, IT-BT employees and partygoers.

Police seized 3 kg of hydro ganja, 10 kg of drugs and 500 LSD strips. Two cars and 10 mobile phones were also recovered.

Odisha ganja trail

In a separate case, Talaghattapura police arrested two drug peddlers and seized 78 kg of ganja worth Rs 60 lakh.

The accused are Dhanush and Raghavendra.

They operated in the Kariyanpalya area of Talaghattapura, bringing ganja from Odisha at a lower price and selling it at higher rates to locals and students for profit, police said.

Techie cheated of Rs 2.32 lakh through fake traffic challan link

BENGALURU, DHNS: A software engineer in eastern Bengaluru lost Rs 2.32 lakh after entering his credit card details on a fake website to clear a non-existent traffic challan of Rs 500.

Whitefield Cybercrime Police registered an FIR on January 27 after a complaint from the 57-year-old victim.

The techie, from Whitefield, told police that on January 26, he received a text message claiming he had a pending traffic challan of Rs 500. The message included the link http://pasnahan.top/ins. He clicked the link and a web page opened, seeking payment details to clear the Rs 500 fine. He entered his credit card information and soon Rs 2,32,272 was debited. Realising he had been cheated, he approached the police.

A case was registered and an investigation is underway. Police reiterated they do not send such messages seeking clearance of challans.

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Luke 20:36
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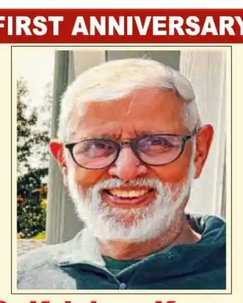
Husband, Brother, Sister, Sons, Daughters-in-Law & Grand Children

FIRST ANNIVERSARY



S. Krishna Kumar
(10.2.1946 - 29.1.2025)
We miss you so much. Your joy for life, quick wit, love for music, curious nature and out of the box thinking, made you unique.
Vilasini and family
Mob: 9845471120

SESSION SNIPPETS

Rs 988 crore released for crop insurance: Agri minister

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has released Rs 988 crore towards crop insurance under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the current fiscal, Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy told the Assembly on Wednesday. An additional grant of Rs 168.59 crore has been sought from the finance department. Of this, Rs 128 crore will go to farmers in the Kalaburagi district, Chaluvarayaswamy said. He was replying to a question by Gulbarga South Congress MLA Allamaprabhu Patil.

N Chaluvarayaswamy

New e-Swathu system to stabilise in one month: Priyank

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge told the Assembly on Wednesday that the new e-Swathu software system will stabilise in about a month's time. He was replying to Kundapur BJP MLA Kiran Kumar Kodgi on glitches in the e-Swathu system, impacting delivery of property documents to citizens in rural areas. Out of 44,508 applications under the new e-Swathu system, only 7,978 have been processed.

Priyank Kharge

"I wrote to the union IT minister (Ashwini Vaishnaw) seeking his intervention to get the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to fix the glitches. I received a reply that additional human resources have been deployed. The system will stabilise in a month's time. Every new software system will have teething problems," he said, adding that his department has started a helpline to guide citizens. "Under the new system, we want to bring under the tax net nearly one crore properties," the minister said.

15 years on, debate on illegal mining returns to Assembly

Reddy targets Lad, accuses CM of misleading House

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly proceedings were disrupted on Wednesday after Gangavathi BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy targeted Labour Minister Santosh Lad over illegal mining.

Reddy and Lad, both mining barons, have faced accusations in the multi-crore illegal iron ore extraction 'scam' that rocked the state's politics more than a decade ago.

Reddy was arrested in 2011 in connection with the illegal mining scam. In 2013, Lad had to resign from the then Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet following the Supreme Court ordering the cancellation of his firm VS Lad & Sons' mining license.

During a debate on the motion of thanks to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's joint address to the legislature, senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar recalled what transpired in 2011.

"On January 6, 2011, when Governor H R Bharadwaj was addressing a joint session of the legislature, then Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah asked him not to read the speech as the government was corrupt. The Governor then laid his speech and left," Kumar said.

Responding to this, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the two incidents - Bharadwaj then and Thaawarchand Gehlot now - were not comparable.

"In 2011, Bharadwaj laid the address in the House and left. I did not ask him to stop reading. The circumstances then and now are completely different," Siddaramaiah said.

Further, Siddaramaiah said Bharadwaj's episode followed an adjournment motion based on the Lokayukta report on illegal mining. "Justice Santosh Hegde, in his Lokayukta report, stated that it was a corrupt government. So, I had asked the Governor not to read the speech as the government was corrupt. That situation arose after a padayatra I had undertaken (to Ballari)," he said.

Reddy intervened and accused Siddaramaiah of misleading the Assembly.

"Your padayatra was held in July 2010 prior to the 2011 incident involving the Governor (Bharadwaj). After your padayatra, the Supreme Court cancelled mining permits of Santosh Lad. It is a shame that you still have Santosh Lad sitting in this House as a minister," Reddy told Siddaramaiah. Lad was not present when Reddy said this. This led to chaos followed by adjournment.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks during a debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address, in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Don't discuss Governor's conduct: Speaker

Speaker U T Khader on Wednesday asked lawmakers not to discuss the Governor's conduct. "Our opinions should always be binding to the Constitution and uphold the dignity of the House and the members. I urge members to not discuss the Governor's conduct and instead focus on the Constitutional position," he said.

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Notice under 'Hate Speech law' triggers debate in Assembly

Guv's assent awaited for Bill; BJP alleges targeting by govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

Is the ruling Congress in Karnataka trying to enforce a proposed law even before the Governor's nod?

A notice served on BJP leader by the Chikkamagaluru district police ahead of a 'Hindu Samajotsava' procession citing the Hate Speech bill provisions, triggered a debate in the state Assembly on Wednesday.

BJP MLA from Karkala Sunil Kumar, in a calling attention motion, alleged that that members of Hindu outfits were being targeted by the state government through the Police department.

He said the police had imposed restriction on the movement of the Hindu workers, slapped notices and also filed suo motu cases against them to prevent them from attending the 'Samajotsav' events.

"The government has hatched a ploy to restrict Hindu activists and leaders like Dr Prabhakar Bhat, Sharan Pumpwell, Chakravarthy Sulibele, Vikas Puttur and Puneet Kerehalli from going to various districts. I want to draw the minister's attention to the fact that no clashes or riots have been reported from 'Samajotsav' celebrations. But you have taken pre-emptive steps by booking the cases," said Sunil Kumar.

Citing the police notice issued to Vikas Puttur, who was invited as one of the main speakers at the 'Samajotsav' event at Tarikere, Sunil Kumar said, "The police notice warned him against any act that would violate the provisions under the Karnataka Hate Speech Bill, 2025, even though the Bill has not yet received the Governor's assent and is therefore not enforceable as law."

The BJP leader demanded to know what amounted to "provocation" and stated that the police booked a suo motu case against RSS leader Prabhakar Bhat for his speech on Mughal's invading India. "Does the state government not able to tolerate Hindu activists?" asked Sunilkumar and added that Karnataka was not so volatile as to impose such restrictions or book cases.

The BJP demanded action against the police officer issuing notices based on a law which is yet to get the Governor's assent.

Law Minister H K Patil said such matters are normally handled at the SP or DC level. "The government does not interfere in these cases. Every government has taken such decisions to prevent communal clashes and inflammatory speeches. This is only a procedure to check communal clashes."

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka questioned the legal basis of the notices, pointing out that the Hate Speech Bill has not yet become law.

Sunil Kumar also added that there had been no clashes reported at any 'Samajotsav' event, but in DJ Halli and KG Halli. BJP demanded action against the concerned police personnel.

Patil assured the Assembly that the government would investigate why police officers were issuing notices under the non-existent law, and "suitable" action would be taken holding discussions with the Home minister.

Chalavadi tears Rule Book, chaos mar Council proceedings

Congmen seek expulsion of oppn leader for insulting the chair

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Wednesday tore the Rule Book of the Council alleging that the session was not being conducted in order, which lead to chaos.

The House witnessed repeated disruptions since morning. The act of Narayanaswamy only triggered the members of the ruling party, who created an uproar when the House reopened after adjournment in the afternoon.

Members of the ruling party demanded apology from Narayanaswamy and also his expulsion for "insulting" the chair.

Intervening to clear the chaos, Chairman of the house Basavaraj Horatti expressed regret and said that the Rule Book was the Constitution of the Legislative Council and advised Narayanaswamy to apologise.

However, instead of apologising, Narayanaswamy said that his act was not against the chair, and said he did it as a protest as the house proceedings were not being held in order.

As soon as the house began proceedings on Wednesday morning, the opposition members continued their Tuesday's demand and sought the resignation of Excise Minister R B Thimmapur, who is facing allegations of corruption. However, a few minutes later the issue got diverted and they started demanding an apology for insulting the Governor.

This led to heated argument between the ruling and the opposition members and some even personally attacking each other. Members of the BJP and the JD(S) entered the well and protested.

The chairman adjourned the session twice. Horatti even tried to bring the house into order by holding a conciliatory meeting with members of both the ruling and the opposition. However, it failed.

Later, the opposition wanted to know whether the Governor's speech was treated as Gratitude or Condemnation. "The Leader of the House has said that the government was condemning the Governor's speech, the very first day. We want clarity on it and apology over that remark," said JD(S) member S L Bhojegowda.

The chairman even announced the removal of the word "Condemnation" from the records and requested the members to allow the house to function. In spite of this, the opposition members demanded an apology from the government.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy tears Rule Book of the Council alleging that the session was not being conducted in order, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

DH Classifieds

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I, YASMEEN #7, 3rd Cross, SP Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Dooravaninagar, Bengaluru-16, have changed my name to NYANA MARY Vide affidavit dated-27/01/2026

I, RICHA VANI AWAIS KAZI, residing at Bengaluru-77 have changed my name as RICHA VANI, vide affidavit dated 28/01/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, DHULIPALLA SRI VATHSA #7, 3rd Cross, Ramanjaneya Layout, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-37 have changed my name to DHULIPALLA SHREE VATHSA

RGUHS finally adopts plagiarism detection software

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of its efforts to ensure that research work and assignments submitted by students are not copied from available resources, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has on-boarded anti-plagiarism software Drillbit. This comes many years after the varsity outlined its plans to adopt an anti-plagiarism policy. Students and teachers can use Drillbit to check the percentage of content taken from external sources.

Up to 20% of the content in an assignment or dissertation can be borrowed from external sources, said RGUHS officials. The software will scan the document for unoriginal content and produce a certificate mentioning the percentage of reproduced content. "Students must compulsorily submit this certificate along with their dissertation. If the percentage of unoriginal content exceeds 20%, students will have to revise the draft," said a senior RGUHS official.

Mahantesh Bilagi's daughter gets govt job

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chaitanya M Bilagi, the daughter of senior IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi who died in a car crash in November last year, has been appointed as an assistant in the Karnataka secretariat. Chaitanya was given her appointment order by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday. Chaitanya will be on probation for two years. She has been given a government job on compassionate grounds. Chaitanya has to report to the department of personnel & administrative reforms (DPAR) within 15 days. She will have to produce a certificate of conduct signed by two prominent persons unconnected to her college or university.

Companies sign pact with GTTC to recruit 200 diploma students

Candidates have undergone advanced industry-oriented skill training

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rangsons Aerospace, one of India's premier aerospace manufacturing companies, to recruit 200 diploma students trained at the institution.

In a similar move, Exide Energy, a leading battery manufacturer, inked an MoU to employ around 400 GTTC students. The MoU was signed on Wednesday in the presence of Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Dr Sharan Prakash Patil.

Several other companies also signed MoUs with GTTC to recruit its students who have undergone advanced industry-oriented skill training.

"We are looking to recruit nearly 200 professionals across 35 trades, including welding, CNC operations, setting and programming, laser cutting, fitting, sheet metal, tooling and design engineering, quality control and non-destructive testing. GTTC is one such institution where students are trained comprehensively in all these skills," said Sandesh P Satish, Chief Human Resources Officer, Rangsons Aerospace.

Subhash Srinivas, Head – Manufacturing Engineering, Exide Energy, said the company was keen on hiring freshers with skill training in mechanical engineering, high-end automation, electronics and electrical streams. "Such industry-ready talent is readily available at GTTC," he noted.

Meanwhile, Gagan Aggarwal, Head of the UK-based NPTC Group of Colleges, said the MoU signed with GTTC aims to strengthen advanced manufacturing and engineering skills, with a focus on global skills benchmarking, faculty upskilling and industry-ready training.

Former GTTC students who gathered from across the country and from overseas.

V Sudarshana, President of the GTTC Alumni Association, said the Association seeks to foster mentorship, training, internships and employment opportunities, while strengthening innovation, entrepreneurship, industry collaboration and curriculum development.

In a special moment, Mohan, the first student admitted to GTTC in 1972, was felicitated.

MLA Priya Krishna, EV Ramana Reddy, Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority, Manoj Kumar Meena, Secretary, Skill Development Department, and Siddalingappa B. Pujari, Managing Director, GTTC, were present.

Relief for Siddaramaiah as special court accepts B Report on MUDA scam

'ED entitled to intervene in the case as an aggrieved party'

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his wife B M Parvathi, the special court for cases involving MP/MLAs accepted the 'B' Report filed by the Lokayukta police in exonerating them in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case.

The Lokayukta police had probed allegations that 14 alternative sites valued at Rs 56 crore had been illegally allotted to CM's wife Parvathi.

Special court judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat on Wednesday rejected the petition that questioned the 'B' (Closure) Report filed by the Lokayukta police.

"The B Report filed by the Investigating Officer against accused Siddaramaiah (accused number-1), BM Parvathi (accused number-2), Mallikarjuna Swamy (accused number-3) and J Devaraj (accused number-4), is hereby accepted. Needless to mention the further investigation being conducted by the investigating officer against other accused persons shall continue and he shall file the Final Report on completion of investigation," the judge said, while upholding the Enforcement Directorate's right to intervene in the case as an aggrieved party, albeit to a limited extent. The ED too had petitioned the court against accepting the 'B' Report.

On August 19, 2024, the Karnataka Governor, based on the complaint filed by Mysuru-based activist Snehamayi Krishna, had granted his approval for investigating the CM under section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act. On September 24, 2024, the Karnataka High Court upheld the Governor's actions. Pursuant to this, the Lokayukta police conducted investigation and in February 2025, submitted a 'B' Report, exonerating Siddaramaiah and others.

The complaint stated that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other accused had indulged in illegalities in purchase of the land under notification - denotifying the land and subsequently claiming alternative sites. The lands 3.16 acres in survey number 464 and 37 guntas in survey number 462 at Kesare village, Mysuru Taluk – were purchased by Mallikarjuna Swamy from the original owner Devaraj and were later denotified. Subsequently, the land was gifted by Mallikarjuna Swamy to his sister Parvathi. It is alleged that Parvathi was allotted 14 compensatory sites in up market Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th stages in Mysuru by exerting pressure on the government officials.

Siddaramaiah and the others had been accused of claiming alternative sites in lieu of land that was denotified. Mallikarjuna Swamy reportedly purchased two parcels of land -- 3.16 acres and 37 guntas -- from Devaraju, and this parcel of land was subsequently denotified. Swamy subsequently gifted the land to his sister and CM's wife Parvathi. It was alleged that pressure was brought to bear on government officials to allot sites in upscale localities of Mysuru - Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th Stage - in lieu of the land.

In its 'B' report, the Lokayukta police had stated that there were no materials to justify the allegations against the chief minister, his wife, her brother Mallikarjuna Swamy and original landowner Devaraju J.

It is stated that the alternative sites were allotted for utilising the denotified land. However, the closure report also said that such allotment of sites on 50:50 ratio by D B Natesh and his predecessors as MUDA commissioners caused huge loss to the government exchequer. The Lokayukta police had sought permission of the court to conduct further investigation into these acts of the officials.

'Constitution always the hope of young generation'

Students take part in a walkathon on Constitution organised by Prajavani and Deccan Herald in collaboration with Social Welfare Department at Gulbarga University campus in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. Vice-Chancellor Prof Shashikant Udikeri, Registrar Prof Ramesh Londonkar, Social Welfare Department Joint Director Preeti Dodamani, Institute of Kannada Studies Director Prof H T Pote and others are seen.

KALABURAGI, DHNS

The seminar and a walkathon on Constitution organised by Prajavani and Deccan Herald in collaboration with Social Welfare Department, received overwhelming response with hundreds of students taking part at the Gulbarga University campus on Wednesday.

The event was held as part of the "Constitution is the Light" campaign aimed at creating awareness among the youth about the importance of the Constitution. Hundreds of youths attended a talk on the Constitution at Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan before the start of 3-km walkathon.

The participants raised slogans "Respect the Constitution, Strengthen the Nation" and "Rights for all, Duties for all – the Gift of the Constitution."

Inaugurating the seminar, the university Vice-Chancellor Prof Shashikant Udikeri said that India would lead the world with absolute implementation of the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

"The Constitution has given us the power to raise our voices democratically apart from ensuring equality, education, and an administrative system. The Constitution has always been the hope of the young generation. Any thoughts that undermine the Constitution will be fatal to the interests of great India," he said.

CONSTITUTION IS LIGHT

Curated by

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'Awareness essential'

The university Registrar Prof Ramesh Londonkar lamented that the Constitution has not been fully implemented even seven and a half decades after its enactment.

In the meantime, attempts are being made to distort the Constitution. "Therefore, awareness about the Constitution needs to reach beyond the university and the student community in such a critical period," he said.

Social Welfare Department Joint Director Preeti Doddamani said that Dr Ambedkar has given the light of the Constitution to the citizens and everyone should use it to move India forward.

Delivering a lecture during the seminar, Institute of Kannada Studies Director Prof H T Pote said that the Constitution is not just a bundle of papers, but a part of the life for Indians.

"The Preamble of our Constitution begins with the phrase We the citizens of India. This includes all the citizens of the country. The Constitution is a book that should be in the house of every Indian. There are holy books for all religions including Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhism in the country. But, the Constitution is the book that protects all these holy books", he explained.

Pointing out that Dr Ambedkar has brought unity through the Constitution, he said that the Constitution gave opportunities and rights to women, backward classes, along with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. None of these people would survive without the Constitution. Therefore, protecting the Constitution is not the responsibility of Dalits alone; it is the duty of all, he opined.

Stating that harmony, equality and brotherhood are aspirations of the Constitution, he said that Dr Ambedkar has drawn all the principles from Buddha as claimed by him while drafting the constitution.

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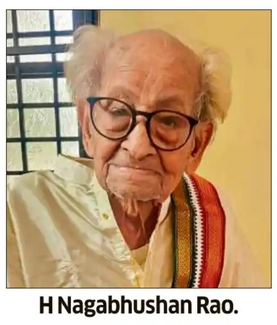


H Nagabhushan Rao.

Nagabhushan Rao, oldest freedom fighter, passes away

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's oldest freedom fighter H Nagabhushan Rao passed away here in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 104.

Born on June 20, 1921, in Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district, Rao was inspired by the freedom movement while still in high school.

Influenced by the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi, he participated in the non-cooperation and Quit India movements, alongside stalwart freedom fighters such as Shanthaveri Gopala Gowda, Kadidal Manjappa, Doreswamy, Goruru Ramaswamy Iyengar, and E N Kittappa Gowda.

Rao played a key role in the Non-Cooperation Movement by removing post boxes and cutting British communication cables.

An employee of Hindustan Aeronautical Co Ltd, he was dismissed from the job over his involvement in the freedom struggle and was also jailed.

Rao was honoured with a copper plaque and awards from the central and state governments.

In 2023, Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot honoured Rao as part of the Independence Day celebrations and the anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

Official language status for Tulu: Meeting with CM soon

State to take cue from West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivaraj Tangadagi.

The Karnataka government is in favour of declaring Tulu as the state's second official language and is studying what West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have done, Kannada & Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi told the Assembly on Wednesday.

At present, Kannada is the only official state language. English is an 'additional official' language.

Lawmakers across party lines from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, including Speaker UT Khader, have been mounting pressure on the government to declare Tulu as the second official language in the state.

Tangadagi said the government has written to West Bengal where there are multiple 'additional official' languages.

"A committee of officials visited Andhra Pradesh where Urdu is the second official language. The committee is yet to submit its report," Tangadagi said, adding that the team visited Andhra Pradesh on January 19 and 20.

The minister was replying to a question by Puttur Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai.

"After the report is submitted, a meeting will be convened with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. We're in favour of this," Tangadagi said.

The previous BJP government had formed a committee headed by educationist Mohan Alva to examine the possibility of having Tulu as the state's second official language.

Tulu has a history of 3,000 years, it has its own script and is included in Google Translate. Tulu is being researched in Germany and France. Universities have allowed exams in Tulu, said Puttur MLA

The committee gave its report in February 2023 and recommended that Tulu could be made the state's second official language as per Article 345 of the Constitution. It also asked the government to form a committee to study what other states had done.

Rai said declaring Tulu as another official language would involve no financial cost to the government. "Tulu has a history of 3,000 years, it has its own script and is included in Google Translate. Tulu is being researched in Germany and France. Universities have allowed exams in Tulu," he said.

BJP's Vedavyas Kamath also demanded early action to declare Tulu as an official language. The MLA even broke into Tulu for a conversation with Khader, who also speaks the language with native fluency.

"I don't know what abuse Kamath showered upon me in Tulu," Tangagadi quipped. Khader replied: "Don't worry. When Tulu people express praise or abuse, it's with love and affection."

K'taka's concerns over Malayalam language bill baseless: Pinarayi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has informed his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah that the concerns expressed by the Karnataka government over the Malayalam language bill are baseless as it did not impose Malayalam language on the linguistic minorities in Kerala.

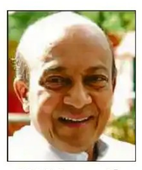
Vijayan on Wednesday wrote a reply to a letter by Siddaramaiah in this regard earlier this month.

Vijayan pointed out that Malayalam Language Bill-2025 did not impose Malayalam as first language on linguistic minorities in Kerala schools, but only provides an option for linguistic minorities to study Malayalam in Kerala schools along with their mother tongue. Malayalam examination is also not made compulsory in tenth standard and higher secondary. The bill also has provisions for linguistic minorities to use Kannada and Tamil for communications with Kerala government offices.

"The thrust for Malayalam will not be a barrier for promoting other languages. The Malayalam Language Bill was prepared by giving due consideration to the socio-cultural relations between Kerala and Karnataka as well as by upholding corporate federalism," Vijayan said.

Ananth Subbarao, transport workers' union stalwart, dead

BENGALURU, DHNS: H V Ananth Subbarao, veteran trade union leader and the face of public transport employees' unions in Karnataka, passed away on Wednesday evening. He was 81.



H V Ananth Subbarao.

Subbarao joined the trade union movement in the 1960s at an early age after being influenced by Marxist and Communist ideologies.

He was the longest-serving general secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), of which he was the president until January 2026. Under his leadership, the AITUC expanded into schemes and public transport workers' welfare. Subbarao headed the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Union and was the face of the transport workers' struggle.

His mortal remains will be kept at the CPI state office, Vyalikaval, from 11 am to 4 pm on Thursday.

The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, of which Subbarao was the convener until recently, has postponed a protest rally at Freedom Park scheduled for Thursday.

The protest, which has been called for the fulfilment of demands related to arrears payment and wage revision, will now be held on Friday, according to the organisers.

FIR against actor Ranveer Singh for mimicking sacred spirit

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru police on Wednesday booked Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by mimicking 'Daiva' in front of *Kantara* actor Rishab Shetty.

The High Grounds police registered the FIR following a court directive on a private complaint filed by advocate Prashanth Metal.

"The complainant submits that he is a devotee of Chavundi Daiva, a revered guardian spirit worshipped in the traditional Bhoota Kola rituals of coastal Karnataka and that the said deity is also his family deity.

He has been worshipping the said goddess with divine pleasure since childhood.

On November 28, 2025, during the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, Ranveer Singh, a Bollywood actor and public figure, while present on stage and in the presence of the hero of the movie *Kantara: Chapter 1*, allegedly performed acts that insulted and mocked the sacred Daiva tradition," the FIR quotes him as saying.

Raveer Singh

The complainant alleged that Singh imitated the divine expressions of Panjurli/Guliga Daiva in "a crude, comical, and derogatory manner" and further verbally referred to the sacred Chavundi Daiva as a "female ghost".

Singh also allegedly enacted the emotional 'Chavundi Daiva' scene from *Kantara: Chapter 1* despite an alleged request not to perform the Daiva act.

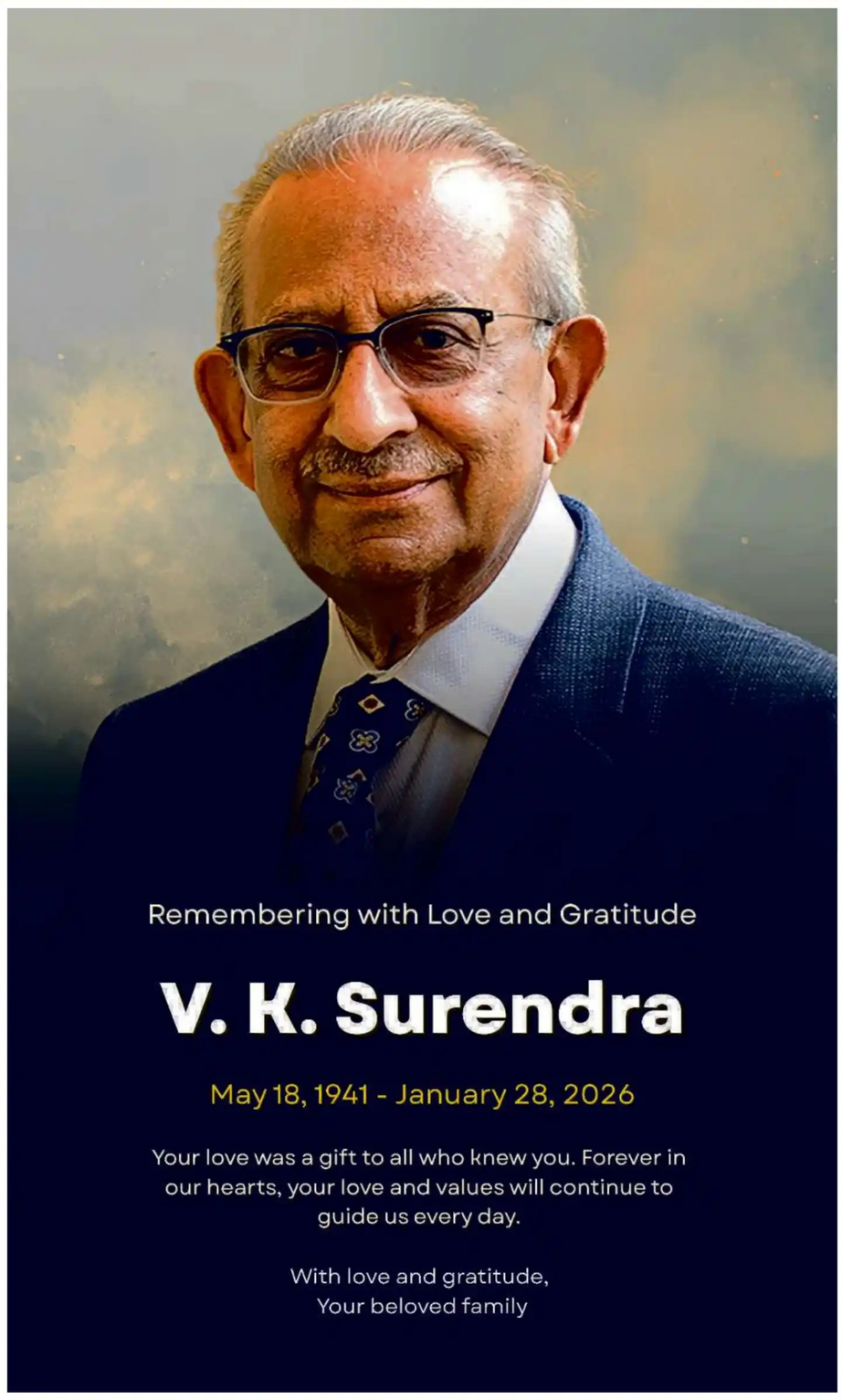
The complainant submitted that Chavundi Daiva is not a female ghost but a powerful and fierce guardian spirit symbolising justice, protection and divine feminine energy, and holds deep religious and cultural significance in the coastal region.

Referring to the deity as a ghost is described as blasphemous and a serious insult to Hindu religious beliefs and practices, the FIR notes.

The video of the incident had gone viral on social media, causing "grave mental agony, anger, and resentment to the complainant and other devotees."

Following the outrage, Singh apologised.

The actor has been booked under BNS Sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 302 (uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings of any person).


Remembering with Love and Gratitude
V. K. Surendra
May 18, 1941 - January 28, 2026
Your love was a gift to all who knew you. Forever in our hearts, your love and values will continue to guide us every day.
With love and gratitude,
Your beloved family

No plan to open HAL airport for civilian usage: HAL CMD

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Public sector aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Wednesday said that it has no plan to open the HAL airport in Bengaluru for civilian usage now due to exclusivity clause with the Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL).

"Till 2033, the HAL airport cannot be used for civilian operations due to exclusivity clause in the concession agreement. Moreover, the HAL airport is always busy with its own activities including testing of helicopters and jets," HAL CMD D K Sunil told media persons here on the sidelines of the Wings India 2026 at Begumpet Airport.

In its concession agreement signed with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation on July 5, 2004, BIAL ensured that no airport can operate within an aerial distance of 150 kilometres of the airport before the 25th anniversary of KIA (Kempegowda International Airport), which falls in May 2033.

HAL's civil aviation push

The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is aiming to start rolling out semi knock-down SuperJet 100 (SJ100) aircraft in its existing facilities in the next three years, he said.

The company aims to achieve 25% of its revenues from the civil aviation vertical in the next 10 years from the existing 4-5%, Sunil said.

The HAL recently signed an agreement with Russia's Public Joint Stock Company United Aircraft Corporation (PJSC-UAC) for the production of SJ-100 aircraft.

Sunil said the idea is to not wait for the production, but to deploy the aircraft as soon as possible. HAL would like to lease about 10 to 20 which can be bought from Russia directly in flyaway condition.

He also said that the company would commence production of SJ100 in its existing facilities in the next three-four years. Sunil said the aerospace major is in touch with some companies in GIFT City in Gujarat on leasing issues.

He further said state-owned Pawan Hans Ltd will procure 10 Made-in-India Dhruv New Generation (NG) helicopters from HAL and deploy them for offshore operations of ONGC.

Suspense over Palestinian films as BIFFes opens today

Prakash Raj to protest against Centre if clearances not given

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Many in the film fraternity are demanding the screening of all Palestinian films chosen for the Bengaluru International Film Festival, opening on Thursday.

The Centre has denied clearance for four of the five films selected for the festival, and it is still not clear what position the Karnataka government is taking on the screening.

Prakash Raj, the actor who is the brand ambassador for this year's edition of BIFFes, has said he would protest against the Centre if the clearances were not given.

Writer and film critic N Sandhyarani believes that, in addition to enriching human experience, art forms represent the burning problems of an era and document them for posterity.

"With cinema having a wide audience, Palestinian filmmakers are using it to let the world know about what is happening in their country," she said.

The festival's slogan in the previous edition was 'Sarva janangada shantiya thota' (Tranquil garden of diverse people). "When we talk about the spirit of inclusiveness, how can we keep these voices out?" Sandhyarani said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has failed to take a stand on the screening of these films, said film critic Sripad Bhat.

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are always showing their support for the Palestinian cause, so what is stopping the party here from going ahead with the screening, Bhat wondered. "We will show our resistance if they don't take a stand," he told *DH*.

The team of 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, with the photo of six-year-old Hind Rajab, who was killed by the Israel defence forces in Gaza. The film is nominated for Best International feature at the Academy awards. PHOTO/INSTAGRAM/THEVOICEOFHINDRAJABFILM

About 14 films were similarly denied clearance ahead of the International Film Festival of Kerala, which concluded on December 19, 2025. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stood his ground and asked the festival authorities to ignore the Centre's position and screen all selected films.

"Art is the voice of the people, especially the oppressed," says well-known actor Kishore, who was the brand ambassador of BIFFes last year. The Congress, which talks about democratic values and social justice, should make sure all cultures prevail, he urged. "They should find a way to show the movies," he told *DH*.

Filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh said it was an open secret why the BJP-led government, being a supporter of Israel, did not want to show Palestinian films in India. "This sets a dangerous precedent, limiting public exposure to diverse perspectives. The Karnataka government should take a stand and show the films," she said.

As the festival opens today...

The Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have denied clearance for the screening of four films — 'All That's Left of You', 'The Voice of Hind Rajab', 'Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk' and 'Yes' — at the 17th BIFFes, which opens on Thursday.

The films depict the devastation and humanitarian crisis in Palestine and Gaza, described by many as a genocide. Only one Palestinian film, 'Palestine 36', has received screening permission.

People should not be blindsided with only one narrative, This is like rewriting history without the Mughals, she remarked.

Filmmaker Prakash Babu said the Karnataka government should take a stand. "At least in states with Congress governments, they should be able to do that," he said.

Health dept norms on pvt practice of govt doctors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health Department issued a clarification on Tuesday stating that government doctors can practice in private hospitals. However, such practice should be limited only out patients, and should not be taken up during the working hours. The government has strictly prohibited treatment of in-patients as part of private practice by the government doctors. The private practice must be restricted to only one clinic or hospital and that information should be revealed to the government, the order said.

Bus catches fire, passengers safe

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Over 40 passengers had a narrow escape when a private bus, in which they were travelling, caught fire near Sudur in Hosanagara taluk on Tuesday night. The bus was completely burnt and two drivers suffered minor injuries. All the passengers alighted safely.

Initially, smoke appeared in the bus due to a technical fault, and the driver lost control and crashed into a tree on the side of the road. Later, the fire broke out. The bus was bound to Bengaluru.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Jan 29: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.8	17.8	00
Bidar	31	17	00
Vijayapura	30.5	17	00
Dharwad	30.6	17	00
Haveri	30.6	17.4	00
Kalaburagi	33	19.8	00
Raichur	31	17.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.1	21.1	00
Karwar	34	22.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.9	23.7	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29.4	16.5	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	31.2	18.4	00
Davangere	31.5	14	00
Hassan	31.2	12.9	00
Mysuru	30.4	16	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.6	12.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	16.9	12.6	04
Kolkata	27	14	00
Mumbai	27.8	17.8	00
Chennai	30.1	21.6	00
Pune	31.4	14.4	00
Hyderabad	30.2	18.1	00
Th'puram	34.2	22.5	00

Questions over future of NCP unification efforts

What next for NCP, from Page 1

Often described as the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of Indian politics, Sharad Pawar also spoke about his gradual withdrawal from active politics. "For the first 30 years, I was there. For the next 25 to 30 years, Ajit Dada handled all responsibilities. Now, arrangements have to be made for a new leadership."

However, with Ajit no longer around — particularly at a time when he was working towards a merger of the two factions — the political landscape has dramatically altered.

A person close to the Pawar family said that Ajit's death is a big blow to the reunification efforts.

"After the June–July 2023 developments and the 2024 Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, everything changed within the family and the party. In the last six months, serious efforts were made to reunite. The family decided to stand together like before. Even party workers from both sides wanted unity. This is a massive blow to all of us," the family insider, who is close to both factions, told *DH* over phone from Baramati.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the NCP (SP) recorded a better strike rate — winning eight of the 10 seats it contested, out of Maharashtra's 48. In contrast, the Ajit-led NCP won just one seat after contesting four.

In the subsequent Vidhan Sabha elections, however, Ajith's camp emerged stronger, winning 41 seats, while the NCP (SP) managed only 10.

In terms of hierarchy, the NCP (SP) has senior Pawar's daughter, Supriya Sule, as its working president, followed by leaders such as grandnephew Rohit Pawar, state president Shashikant Shinde and his predecessor Jayant Patil.

In the NCP, Praful Patel is the working president, while the state unit is headed by Raigad MP Sunil Tatkare. Ajit Pawar's wife, Sunetra Pawar, is a Rajya Sabha MP, though their sons Parth and Jay are not actively involved in day-to-day politics.

Parth briefly entered electoral politics in 2019, unsuccessfully contesting the Lok Sabha election from Maval. The party, meanwhile, was considering Jay Pawar's political debut.

There is speculation that one of them may be asked to take on a larger political role. For the moment, however, Sunetra is expected to oversee party affairs, along with Praful Patel and Tatkare.

The NCP continues to have several heavyweight leaders in Maharashtra, including Chhagan Bhujbal, Hasan Mushrif, Dattatreya Bharne, Manikrao Kokate and Dhananjay Munde.

Notably, Ajit had initiated steps towards reconciliation. While the two factions contested the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal elections separately — with limited success —they decided to fight the zilla parishad elections together under the 'clock' symbol, signalling the first formal step towards reunification.

The NCP and the NCP (SP) believe in the ideology of 'Shiv-Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar'. In September 2025, the NCP's Rashtravadi Chintan Shivir in Nagpur focused on strengthening its relations with the BJP, for the "welfare and development of Maharashtra". Over the past few days after the debacle in Pune municipal elections, there were reports of Ajit returning to the Maha Vikas Aghadi, however, it has been denied.

The most immediate question for the Devendra Fadnavis-headed Maha Yuti government is who will be the new deputy CM to replace Ajit, who held finance, planning and excise portfolios. With the Budget Session round the corner, a finance minister needs to be in office at the earliest. Also, the Maha Yuti has lost a fast decision-maker who knew how to keep people in good humour.

Ajit Pawar dies in plane crash

Ajit Pawar, from Page 1

"After the ATC granted landing clearance, the aircraft crashed," he said.

The Learjet 45 belonging to VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, with licence number VT-SSK, had taken off from the General Aviation Terminal of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai and was headed for Baramati, where Pawar was to address a series of meetings in the wake of the forthcoming zilla parishad and panchayat samiti elections, which the NCP and NCP (SP) are contesting together.

Dada, as Pawar was popularly known, was Baramati's one-time MP and eight-time MLA. He is survived by his mother Ashatai Pawar, wife Sunetra Pawar and sons Parth Pawar and Jay Pawar.

Pawar was the nephew of NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar.

The six-time deputy chief minister and former Leader of Opposition, was one of the most powerful and influential leaders in Maharashtra's political landscape and a successful player in regional politics. Pawar's body was identified by his wrist watch and clothes, local reports said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a probe and teams of Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) and Maharashtra Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) are at the site.

Details of the aircraft have been taken from VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd and the air traffic control (ATC) of Baramati.

The wreckage of the aircraft could be seen strewn across the terrain off Baramati Airport. Pawar's body was taken to the Baramati Hospital after which it was shifted to the Vidya Pratishthan Complex, the family-owned educational institution, where the police sounded the Last Post.

The last rites would be performed at the Vidya Pratishthan Grounds on Thursday.

Ruckus in Assembly...

Assembly, from Page 1

Patil declined to withdraw the remark despite demands from the Opposition. "I stand by my statement. Given the situation prevailing in the country today, my allegation is totally appropriate. Otherwise, is it possible for a Governor to violate the Constitution?" Patil asked. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government had not tapped any phone and that Patil had only drawn an 'inference' that the Governor could have received a call from the 'high command'. He said an inquiry could be held if the Opposition sought one. Speaking to reporters later, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka demanded a CBI probe.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 21.02.2026 up to 4 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of Minority Welfare Department, Morarji Desai Residential School at Adivala Village, Hiriyuru Taluk in Chitradurga District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 692 & IFT No.137/2025-26 Date: 22.01.2026. **Amont put to tender:** Rs.12,15,20,117/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5260/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE/ID/TEN/152/2025-26 Date: 28.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (CALL-2)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Tender is invited for **Providing Vehicles for BDA Demolition Squad on outsourced basis for the period of One Year(12 Months). (Indent No.BDA/2025-26/SE0070/Call-2).**

Tender Process Schedule: (1) Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **04.02.2026, 16.30 hrs. (2)** Date and time of opening Technical bid: **06.02.2026, 16.30 hrs. (3)** Date and time of opening Financial bid: **09.02.2026, 16.00 hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Infrastructure Division of BDA during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
1st Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling, S. Kariyappa Road
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/37/2025-26 Dated: 27.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPPP Portal only) (SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **KLLADS Grants** works **(RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21625 & RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21329)**. The works details can obtained from the KPPP Website The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 11.02.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
Bangalore Urban Dist.,Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5252/SA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1/Tender/2025-26/ 144 Date: 27-01-2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details

1) Name of Works :As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor:As mentioned in KPP -Portal 4) Amount put to tender:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-2& KW-4 Only:**02-02-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time KW-2& KW-4 Only:Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on **31-01-2026 at 11:00 AM,** 8) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-2& KW-4 Only:**04-02-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 9) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-2& KW-4 Only: **06-02-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-2& KW-4 Only **09-02-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 11) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/Fax:08482 232080,12) Website details:KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/314/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer MI & GWD Division, Bidar

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No.: KREIS/EE-3/Tender- 25/2025-26 Date: **28.01.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of (BC) IGRS School in Shivamogga, Construction Of (SC) Dr B.R. Ambedkar Govt Post Metric Boys Hostel at Ramanagar taluk & District, Construction of Adivasi Bhavan in Chamarajanagar Taluk & Dist, Construction of Compound Wall, Electrical Repair and Civil Repair works** in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 808, 696, 799/call-2, 798, 555/call-2, 556/call-2, 557/call-2, 596/call-2 and 727/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 28.01.2026. The last date for receipt of tender is **12.02.2026** and **26.02.2026** respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer-3
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/5250/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BENGALURU
Estate Office, GKVK

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. EO/TN/22/2025-26, DATED: 22.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW4 from the registered KPWD/PWD/ Contractors for the Sl. No.1. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The pre- bid meeting will be held on **05-02-2026** at **10:30 am** in the tender room of Estate office. Last date and time for uploading is **07-02-2026** upto **4.00 P.M.** The **Technical Bid** will be opened on **09-02-2026** at **10.30 A.M.** The **Financial Bid** will be opened on **13-02-2026** at **10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No. 080-23332765.

DIPR/CP/5231/CCL/2025-26

Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560099.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: TMCB/ENG/MF/TR07/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.01.2026

(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ Kw4ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸಂಸದರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ನಂ. DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53052ನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.120.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ** ಐಟಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ದ್ವೀ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸಂಸದರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:00:00 ಯವರೆಗೆ)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:30:00 ಯವರೆಗೆ)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **(itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com)** ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಎಎಎ/5258/2025–26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC
19th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru 560010

No.: BWCC/EE/SD/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 27.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Short Term Tender Notification (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC invites tender from eligible registered agencies in any Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects
1	Mapping of buildings and campuses using Total Stations & documenting floor-wise land utilization area statements within the jurisdication of Bengaluru West City Corporation. **EMD (Rs.): 1.00 Lakhs.**

Time Schedule: (1) Tender document may be downloaded from the KPP Poratl of the Government of Karnataka. **(2)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online): **02.02.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting: **05.02.2026** at **3:00 p.m. (4)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **16.02.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (5)** Opening of Technical bid: **18.02.2026** at **11:00 a.m. if possible next working day. (6)** Opening of Financial bid (if Possible): **19.02.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours or from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC

PATCH-UP PIPE DREAM: Ajit Pawar passes away before reconciling with uncle

Dada of Maha politics who never became CM

People gather to pay their last respects to Maharashtra Dy CM Ajit Pawar, in Baramati, on Wednesday. PTI

CM Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde and Supriya Sule with Sunetra Pawar, wife of Ajit Pawar. PTI

NCP workers at the party office in Mumbai. PTI

Ajit Pawar
(1959-2026)

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMABI, DHNS

Ajit Pawar was the nephew who defied convention and familial succession struggles, who outsmarted his foes and friends with an undaunted elan to emerge as the rightful claimant to his uncle Sharad Pawar's political legacy.

In an Indian political setup, where the baton is invariably passed on to the immediate progeny, Ajit Pawar waded his way through the precipitous terrains of Maharashtra politics to not just survive but also emerge from the shadow of his mentor, Pawar senior. He not just broke the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) but walked out with the party's name, its MLAs, and its election symbol.

He not just joined hands with the BJP but won the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections in alliance with the NDA to become the deputy chief minister in the Devendra Fadnavis-led government.

In the recently-concluded Maharashtra local-body polls, there were signs of a patch-up in the family as the disparate NCP factions worked to save their bastions in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Born on July 2, 1959, to Sharad Pawar's elder brother Anantrao, who had worked at filmmaker V Shantaram's Rajkamal Studios in Mumbai, Ajit dropped out of college after his father's death to support the family.

Dada, or Ajit Dada — as he was popularly known — was outspoken and often blunt. The 66-year-old eight-term MLA was an efficient administrator with a subtle sense of humour.

After his early stint in state politics, when Sharad Pawar shifted his focus to Delhi, Ajit would emerge as the key link between the Pawar family and the cadre.

His name would eventually surface in the alleged Rs 70,000-crore irrigation scam. He was also booked by the Mumbai Police and the Enforcement Directorate in the Rs 25,000-crore Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam.

He created a record of sorts as the longest-serving DyCM — six times under various CMs, from Prithviraj Chavan to Uddhav Thackray.

Yet, the top post of CM eluded him — something he publicly and privately admitted he regretted.

Dada's Journey

66 years 6 months 6 days

Born: July 22, 1959, Deolali Pravara

1982: Elected to the Sugar Cooperative Factory Board

1991: Elected MP from Baramati

1991: Elected as MLA from Baramati (retained the seat in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024)

1991- 1999: Served as minister handling portfolios, including Agriculture & Power, Water Resources, Power & Finance

2010-2019: Served twice as deputy chief minister under CM Prithviraj Chavan

2019: Appointed Dy CM under CM Devendra Fadnavis, the govt collapsed within couple of days

2019 to 2022: Dy CM under CM Uddhav Thackeray, when MVA was in power

2022-2023: Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly

June-July 2023: Splits NCP, founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar

July 2023-till death: Deputy CM under Eknath Shinde and later Fadnavis

Pall of gloom descends over Baramati

MUMBAI, DHNS

"Ajit Dada amar rahe, amar rahe", "Ajit Dada parat ya, parat ya" rent the air, piercing the pall of gloom that had descended on Baramati because of the untimely demise of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar.

For the people of Pune district's Baramati, Dada — as he was popularly known — symbolised the transformation of the tehsil under the mentorship of his uncle, Sharad Pawar.

In Baramati, politics means Pawars and Pawars mean politics. Yet the Saheb-versus-Dada rivalry had deeply affected the people.

Ajit Pawar's death came as a profound shock, especially at a time when the family appeared to be moving towards reconciliation.

"We are devastated... There are no words. We never thought that this could happen to Dada and Baramati," a close aide of Ajit told *DH*.

Manoj Wagh, a local teacher, said the people of Baramati were still to come to terms with Ajit's sudden death. "Every development work in Baramati has imprint of Ajit dada," he noted.

His mortal remains, which were at the Medical College in Baramati, were brought to the Vidya Pratishtan in a vehicle decked with flowers as people standing on both sides of the road got emotional and broke down.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and his wife Pratibha rushed to Baramati as soon as they heard about the tragedy. As soon as Pawar landed at the Baramati Airport, his aides briefed him about the details of the accident.

Ajit's wife Sunetra and cousin Supriya Sule, who were in New Delhi for the Budget session of Parliament, air-dashed to Pune, as did his sons Parth and Jay.

Mamata calls for SC-monitored probe; Sharad Pawar rejects conspiracy

KOLKATA, DHNS: Ajit Pawar was planning to leave the Maha Yuti — a coalition led by the BJP — before his death, said West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday, demanding a proper investigation monitored by the Supreme Court into the plane crash that killed the Maharashtra deputy chief minister and the NCP leader earlier in the day.

The BJP, however, slammed the demand, calling the comments "insensitive".

Banerjee said she had come across a claim by the leader of another party on social media that Pawar was ready to leave the Maha Yuti. "And now what happened today... I need a proper investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court," she told journalists, adding: "We only trust the Supreme Court. All the agencies have been totally purchased."

She also said: "I was truly shocked to see the news (of Ajit Pawar's death) this morning. It shows that there is no safety or security in this country, even for political leaders."

She had already made the demand earlier in the day, writing on X: "The incident needs proper investigation."

She added on the social-media platform: "I am feeling a deep sense of loss. My condolences to his family, including his uncle Sharad Pawar ji, and late Ajit Ji's all friends and followers. [sic]"

Banerjee drew immediate flak from the BJP, with party leader Amit Malviya saying that instead of making insensitive comments, she should rather focus on ensuring justice and timely relief to the families of the victims of the recent fire that killed at least 19 people near Anandapur in Kolkata.

SHARAD PAWAR
NCP(SP) chief

"Some people are trying to give a political colour to the incident. There is no politics involved; it is purely an accident. It has caused immense grief to me and entire Maharashtra. I appeal to everyone not to politicise this tragedy. There's no conspiracy involved... Maharashtra has suffered a huge loss with the passing of Ajit Pawar.

Ajit Pawar was a leader of the people, having a strong grassroots-level connect. He was widely respected as a hardworking personality at the forefront of serving the people of Maharashtra. His understanding of administrative matters and passion for empowering the poor and downtrodden were also noteworthy. His untimely demise is very shocking and saddening.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Wedding plans turn to mourning at Delhi home of co-pilot

NEW DELHI, PTI

A pall of grief hung over the Safdarjung Enclave residence of Captain Shambhavi Pathak here on Wednesday, curtains drawn and visitors moving in silence, as her mother, who was planning to get her married, grappled with the devastating loss of her daughter in a plane crash in Maharashtra's Baramati earlier in the day.

Pathak, aged around 25 years, was one of the five people killed in the crash of a VSR Ventures Learjet 45 that had Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on board. The aircraft that had taken off from Mumbai crashed minutes before its scheduled landing, officials said.

At Pathak's Delhi home, her mother, a teacher at the Air Force Bal Bharati School, was inconsolable. Her father, a retired Army pilot, travelled to Pune following the tragedy. The couple, both in their late 40s, was planning their daughter's marriage, locals said. Pathak's younger brother (22) is in the Navy.

Shilpi, 40, who runs a beauty parlour in the locality, broke down while recalling her interactions with Pathak. "She was an extremely sweet woman, innocent and very soft-spoken. She last came to my parlour about a month and a half ago.

"Her mother was thinking of getting her married and was looking for prospective grooms. I had even thought of her as a match for my son who lives in Canada. It did not materialise, but I really loved her and her family," Shilpi said.

Jitendra, a security guard who has worked in the area for four decades, said the family moved into the neighbourhood five years ago.

"Whenever Shambhavi would see me, she would always greet me with a namaste. The family was really nice to everyone," he said.

Pathak was associated with VSR Ventures since 2022 as the first officer. She studied at the Air Force Bal Bharati School before undergoing flight training in New Zealand, where she earned a commercial-pilot licence.

She later completed her BSc in aeronautics from the University of Mumbai and held a "Frozen ATPL", along with multiple aviation certifications, including a Flight Instructor Rating.

Locals said the neighbourhood had never witnessed such sorrow.

Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister: Dada is no more! My dear friend and colleague, a mass leader with a strong people's connect, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Dada Pawar lost his life in a plane accident. This is extremely shocking, heart-wrenching news. I'm numb. I do not have any words to express these devastating emotions. I have lost my brave friend with a huge heart. This is a tragic and personal loss for me. And it is an irreparable loss!

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president: Having served the people of Maharashtra in various constitutional capacities, Ajit Pawar shall be remembered as a seasoned politician who discharged his responsibilities towards his people with sincerity and astuteness:

LEADERS AND ICONS LOST IN AIR CRASHES

Sanjay Gandhi (1980)
The son of then prime minister Indira Gandhi died in a crash while piloting a Delhi Flying Club aircraft. The plane lost control during aerial stunts

Madhavrao Scindia (2001)
A former civil aviation minister, the Cong leader died in a plane crash en route in Kanpur. The aircraft went down due to poor weather conditions

OP Jindal and Surender Singh (2005)
Industrialist and Haryana minister Jindal was killed in a helicopter crash along with agriculture minister Surender Singh

YS Rajasekhara Reddy (2009)
Then CM of Andhra Pradesh, popularly known as YSR, died when his Bell 430 helicopter crashed in the Nallamala forest due to bad weather

Vijay Rupani (2025)
The ex-Gujarat CM died in a crash in Ahmedabad last year. All but one of the 242 passengers and crew aboard Air India Flight AI171 were killed

SOURCE: PTI

In House address, President urges unity on national issues

Budget Session speech highlights govt achievements

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

President Droupadi Murmu addresses the joint sitting of Houses on Wednesday. PTI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday urged MPs to stand united on issues of "national interest" like Viksit Bharat, Atmanirbharta and swadeshi to infuse new energy into India's progress, even as Opposition lawmakers shouted slogans when she mentioned the VB-G RAM G Act and demanded the restoration of MGNREGA.

In her nearly one-hour customary address to the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at the start of Budget Session, she said India remains the "fastest growing major economy" despite "various global crises", moving forward on the path of "Reforms Express" while playing the "role of a bridge in the world" amid "complex global circumstances".

She highlighted the government's achievements in sectors like social justice, agriculture, infrastructure, education and industry. The president also hailed 'Operation Sindoor' against Pakistani terror infrastructure, saying a "strong message" was sent that any terror strike will receive a "firm and decisive response". She also mentioned decisive action against Maoists.

Murmu's speech had references to the pet themes of the ruling BJP, including "the thousand years journey since the attacks on the Somnath Temple", the Modi government showing "courage to strike a blow" on "Macaulay's conspiracies" to instil a "sense of inferiority" during British rule and losing ancient manuscripts to "foreign invasions" and "neglect" after independence.

The nearly 6,000-word speech was also rich in references to icons from poll-bound states, including Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (West Bengal), Sree Narayana Guru (Kerala), Bhupen Hazarika (Assam), Rajendra Chola and Thiruvalluvar (Tamil Nadu), as well as mentions about development projects taken up in these states.

The president also cautioned against the dangers arising from the misuse of AI, stressing that it is imperative to take the issue seriously. Deepfakes, misinformation and fake content are becoming significant threats to democracy, social harmony, and public trust, and it is essential that all of you deliberate on this grave matter, she said.

At the start of the president's speech, Opposition MPs, including Leaders of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, stood up demanding the restoration of MGNREGA.

Holding posters in their hands, they also shouted slogans when President Murmu referred to the VB-G RAM G Act, saying it would provide "new momentum" to rural development and create "new facilities" for farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen.

Though the protest lasted only briefly, Murmu went on to remind MPs that national heroes such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, BR Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and AB Vajpayee all believed that differences of opinion are natural in a democracy, but certain subjects lie beyond such differences.

'Recycled ritual': Oppn slams Prez address in Parliament

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Wednesday called the President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament a "recycled ritual" that "reused the same set of claims without truth or accountability", even as its MPs protested during Droupadi Murmu's speech, demanding the restoration of the UPA-era rural employment guarantee scheme, MGNREGA.

As soon as Murmu stood up to deliver her address, MPs jumped to their feet, shouting "restore MGNREGA", though they wound up their protest within a minute. She faced sloganeering once again when she mentioned the VB-G RAM G Act, saying it would provide "new momentum" to rural development and create "new facilities" for tillers, livestock farmers, and fishermen.

Leaders of the Opposition, Mallikarjun Kharge (Rajya Sabha) and Rahul Gandhi (Lok Sabha), joined the MPs in the protest, which was planned at a meeting of Opposition leaders.

"Today, during the President's address to both Houses of Parliament, all Opposition parties most respectfully and in a dignified manner protested the bulldozed repeal of MGNREGA. The Opposition will use all democratic means to demand its restoration," said Congress Rajya Sabha chief whip Jairam Ramesh.

Kharge said every year the Union Cabinet clears the President's address like a "recycled ritual, reusing the same set of claims without truth or accountability". "The slogan of Viksit Bharat is repeated loudly; yet, it carries no clear goals, no timelines, and no measurable outcomes. While making lofty speeches on 'development', the anti-poor, pro-crony Modi government has mercilessly dismantled MGNREGA -- an Act that guaranteed the Right to Work — snatching away the only source of livelihood for crores of workers," he said on X.

Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha member Javed Ali Khan said the speech was all about "empty claims" and the phrase "Viksit Bharat" was repeated several times, but people were in misery.

Kanimozhi meets Rahul; talks on seat-sharing to begin soon

CHENNAI, DHNS: DMK leader Kanimozhi Karunanidhi on Wednesday met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to break the stalemate in seat-sharing talks between the two parties for the 2026 Assembly elections.

Neither the DMK nor the Congress came out with the details of the meeting that took place at the New Delhi residence of Sonia Gandhi.

Sources told *DH* that the meeting was "cordial" and there should be "no confusion" on the continuance of the alliance between the two parties. It is believed that the DMK has already hinted to the Congress leadership that it was willing to offer 27 or 28 Assembly seats and possibly a Rajya Sabha berth, up from the 25 the party was allotted in the 2021 polls.

They said Rahul did broach the topic of power sharing, a demand of the Tamil Nadu state unit, on Wednesday and wanted to know the DMK's opinion on the demand but Kanimozhi explained her party's position on the issue and how it won't work in a state like Tamil Nadu.

It is believed that Rahul Gandhi sought an early constitution of the committee by the DMK to hold seat-sharing negotiations, to which the Dravidian party agreed. "It is only logical that the state unit and the DMK leadership decide the numbers in Chennai, and that's what Gandhi also stressed. So, it is over to Chennai now," a source said.

(With inputs from Shemin Joy in New Delhi)

POLLUTION CUT

Govt eases norms for effluent treatment plants

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Environment Ministry on Wednesday eased regulatory norms for setting up common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) for the industry, claiming that such relaxation—needed for industrial expansion—would not harm the environment.

India currently has 222 common treatment plants, of which 53 are zero-liquid discharge units.

"But the number and capacity of CETPs are significantly below what is required to manage effluents generated by expanding industrial clusters," the ministry said.

Typically, CETPs treat industrial wastewater from polluting industries like textiles, tanneries, electroplating, pharmaceuticals and other types of industrial units. They are needed for small- and medium-scale units that are too financially constrained to set up individual units.

With delays in establishing such treatment plants having an unintended consequence of untreated or poorly treated effluents entering the environment, CETPs have been exempted from obtaining prior environmental clearance before construction.

According to the ministry, the exemption has been granted as CETPs are already subject to existing pollution laws, including Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate norms, periodic inspections, continuous online monitoring and statutory reporting requirements.

"The requirement of prior environmental clearance was found to be duplicative, adding procedural complexity with avoidable delays," the ministry said in a statement, noting that the reform would enable faster creation of CETPs, improving environmental outcomes.

The exemption was granted following an expert panel's recommendation and publication of a draft notification inviting public comments.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A deal to deepen trade as strategy

With India and the European Union (EU) signing the long-awaited trade agreement, the decks are now cleared for an expansive trade zone that covers around two billion people. Negotiations on the "mother of all deals" began almost two decades ago; the recent acceleration may have been a result of Donald Trump's tariffs that impacted trade relations of both the European bloc and India with the United States. The deal sends a signal to Trump at a time when India is holding talks with the US on a trade agreement. In European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's statement that trade is "increasingly weaponised", there may be a reference to the global disruptions caused by Trump's trade policies. The agreement presents a win-win situation for both camps as they try to offset the fallout of these disruptions.

The deal is expected to double the total value of goods the EU exports to India. It could give a $3-5 billion boost to Indian exports to the EU in the near term. In 2024-25, the bilateral trade was worth about $137 billion. India exported goods worth $75.85 billion, while the import value stood at $60.68 billion. Both sides have large economies, together accounting for about 25% of the global gross domestic product and a third of global trade. The EU will liberalise tariffs on 99.5% of Indian imports, and India will offer 92% of its tariff lines, covering 97.5% of the EU exports. Most of India's tariffs on machines, chemicals, and drugs are set to be eliminated. European cars, wines, medical devices, and machinery will become cheaper in India. Garment exports and the movement of service professionals from India to the EU will get a boost. India has taken care not to provide concessions in the sensitive dairy and farm sectors. The agreement will get operationalised in about a year after the due legislative procedures, even as challenges – including the EU's stringent environmental regulations – remain.

The India-EU agreement signals intent to navigate a disrupted, weaponised global trade environment

While the trade deal was the most important outcome from the India-EU summit, other key collaborations were also formalised at the event. The India-EU strategic partnership will improve cooperation in defence and security. Agreements to collaborate in other domains, including mobility, were signed. Together, these new partnerships will build upon existing cooperation in clean energy and climate action, digital technologies, space, and connectivity. Coming in the wake of Trump's plans for the US to acquire Greenland, and opposition from his European allies, the India-EU agreement also carries importance as a position and safeguard against economic coercion.

Policy freeze powers cycle of corruption

The Karnataka government's denial of corruption allegations in the Excise Department is neither convincing nor adequate. When Lokayukta traps reinforce repeated charges from trade bodies and opposition parties, the issue can no longer be dismissed as political noise. At the heart of the malaise is a reported scam that trade associations allege has reached Rs 6,000 crore over the last two years. A primary driver of this crisis is the 33-year freeze on new liquor retail (CL-2) and bar-and-restaurant (CL-9) licences to curb consumption. The moratorium has long outlived its purpose. Karnataka's population, urban footprint, and hospitality sector have expanded dramatically since then, but the licensing regime remains frozen in a different era. This artificial scarcity has turned licences into tradable assets, spawning a thriving black market, as the state forfeits revenue. This environment has also distorted business behaviour. With no new CL-9 licences available, entrepreneurs are pushed towards CL-7 hotel licences as a workaround, a process allegedly lubricated by massive bribes at every stage – from grant and transfer of licences to renewals.

The recent arrest of senior excise officers while allegedly accepting bribes to clear CL-7 licences lends credibility to claims of systemic rot. Equally troubling is the widely reported transfer racket, where lucrative postings are allegedly bought and sold. Officers who pay for postings are incentivised to recover their investment through predatory enforcement, weaponising provisions of the Excise Act to intimidate traders and extract bribes. Added to this are the repeated and unscientific duty hikes, resulting in adverse fiscal consequences; the department missed its 2024-25 revenue target by over Rs 3,000 crore. Beer sales have dipped by nearly 20%, and border districts are losing business to Andhra Pradesh, where a more transparent policy offers significantly cheaper liquor. Institutional decay compounds the problem. An archaic staffing pattern and large vacancies have left the department ill-equipped to manage a modern, complex market.

Karnataka's excise scam further exposes an outdated licensing regime that has enabled systemic graft

At this juncture, corruption charges demand more than denials. A credible investigation by the Lokayukta – under which the Anti-Corruption Bureau functions – is essential to establish facts and restore confidence. But accountability must be paired with structural reform: lifting the licence freeze through transparent, population-linked mechanisms; curbing discretionary powers; rationalising duties in line with neighbouring states; and insulating transfers from political and monetary influence. The Excise Department exists to regulate a sensitive commodity while safeguarding public revenue. Today, it risks becoming a symbol of institutionalised rent-seeking. Ignoring the warning signs will not make the problem disappear; it will only deepen public distrust and losses to the exchequer.

MUNIR AT DAVOS

The dark portents from Pakistan's military economy

The rise and rise of the Field Marshal signals a deepening influence, posing threats to regional stability

LT GEN BHOPINDER SINGH (RETD)

The annual World Economic Forum (WEF) jamboree at Davos is the playing field of political leaders, industrialists, policymakers, academicians, and economic commentators who debate, coordinate, and align economic opportunities. This year, India fielded its cabinet ministers for Electronics & IT, New & Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Civil Aviation, besides a host of chief ministers selling their respective states as investment destinations. In 2018, the Prime Minister himself delivered the keynote address at the plenary session and participated again (virtually) in 2021. This year, the participating Heads of State included the likes of Donald Trump, Emanuel Macron, Friedrich Merz, Mark Carney, and Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, along with their economic entourage.

The Pakistani delegation was led by its Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif. It had the usual composition of Finance and Revenue Minister, Foreign Minister, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, et al. But one unusual but very prominent delegate who caught the global eye was Field Marshal Asim Munir. Serving military chiefs rarely attend such economic-investment engagements. The fact that his shadowy presence did not entail speaking assignments on any official WEF panels but only side talks added to the intrigue. So why was the uniformed general (albeit in civilian clothes with a rumoured bullet-proof vest) attending at all?

Traditionally, Pakistani military chiefs have had an outsized role in the beyond-mandated affairs of Pakistan. The latest optics of the Pakistani Field Marshal at Davos follows the equally surreal scenes of him alongside his Prime Minister at the Oval Office in Washington DC, a few months back, seemingly "peddling" rare metals to Trump, in a briefcase. The fact is, Munir is increasingly seen as the *de facto* custodian of security guarantees in restive Pakistan. Standing next to the political head, he adds heft to the assurances of stability that Pakistan seeks and pitches, be it on rare/critical minerals or for reassuring the investment environment at Davos. Therefore, it could be argued that Pakistan has gone for the militarisation of its economic (read, survival) policy. The vice-like confluence of economic diplomacy, military influence, and resource control is complete and visible in the Pakistani narrative.

The indispensability and authority of the "uniform" in the supposedly democratic framework of Pakistani politics was personified by the obliging way the Pakistani Prime Minister directed Trump's attention by pointing towards Munir in the crowd. Trump acknowledged the Pakistani Field Marshal's unwarranted presence gleefully, suggesting that the American President clearly understood who the real McCoy in Pakistan was. Just months ago, speaking at the Gaza Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh, Trump spoke about Munir (who wasn't present) by referencing him as "my favourite Field Marshal". It all harks back to the murky reality of US-Pakistan history, which insists that Washington D.C. has always had strong ties with Pakistani military leaders such as Field Marshal Ayub Khan, General Zia-ul-Haq or General Pervez Musharraf, and not with the democratically elected politicians.

Downsides of militarism

Trump's valourisation of Munir legitimises the theory of Pakistan emerging as a military-industrial complex or, at least, a military-business construct. The worst-kept secret of Pakistani generals controlling the essential red lines of governance routinely gets the all-important approval of the United States. The hands of the over-entitled Pakistani military are deep into non-professional domains such as the Fauji Foundation with business interests in fertiliser, food, power, banking, cement, etc. All this leads to the military influencing economic/commercial policies, often to the detriment of free and fair market forces. The political leverage the Pakistani military flexes can then be further abused towards preferentialism and exploitation, as it deems fit.

The perennial fear of security instability affords the Pakistani Field Marshal unmatched leverage with various powers beyond the Americans – the Chinese leadership needs to secure its substantial investment in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Arab sheikhdoms seek the help of the battle-hardened Pakistani military to meet their security needs, and other powers such as Turkey seek a market for their military hardware exports in Pakistan.

But there is always a long-term downside to the diminishment of civilian control and to the weakening of the institutions of checks and balances in a democracy. Serious investors are always worried about its fallout, particularly the unpredictability of regulations. Transparency takes a backseat, and unilateralism in societal affairs (as in the dark Zia era) comes with its own pernicious outcomes.

For India, a military-industrial Complex in Pakistan comes with dark portents. One of the outcomes is the endless "enemising" of India, to keep the Pakistani populace excited and supportive of the Pakistani military, which then uses the pretext to justify its own lion's share of the annual budgets. Real peace with India would be inimical to the Pakistani (military) establishment and, therefore, they keep the pot of terrorism and unrest on the boil. In such scenarios, threats from India can be exaggerated, leaving little room for prudent diplomacy. It is almost as if peace is dangerous to the framework of Pakistani governance, where the generals call the shots. A dangerous increase in the capital expenditure on weaponry keeps suppliers/allies like China and Turkey (even the US) on the right side of the Pakistani generals. The additional fear of regressing the national narrative towards puritanism and hyper-religiosity cannot be ruled out, as the "establishment" can simultaneously curry favour with the hardline elements of the Islamic world.

Therefore, pictures emerging from the Oval Office earlier, or from Davos now, with the unwarranted presence of Field Marshal Asim Munir ought to worry Delhi. It is tantamount to democratic backsliding, and that can never work in favour of peace and stability in the long run.

(The writer is a former Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The season of empathy

A simple exchange of gifts shows how kindness can travel full circle

LT COL THOMAS VARGHESE (RETD)

Advent is meant to be a season of hope, peace, joy, and love. Yet, in recent times, these themes often feel overshadowed by commercialisation—shopping sprees, plum cakes, wines, and festive dresses taking centre stage while the deeper purpose fades into the background.

This year, however, a simple fruitcake became an unlikely symbol of grace. My wife, a culinary expert, happened to receive a tin of hot cakes from Kerala last year, which she took out from her hidden stash. On tasting it, she rated it 5/5—the best fruitcake in recent memory. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," we thought, and shared the discovery with my sister, who lives in Kochi.

My sister, a retired teacher, has a new neighbour — a small family consisting of a couple, their daughter and her grandmother. The little girl is in a playschool and travels by the school bus every day. Jumping from the bus into the hands of her grandmother has been a daily delight for her.

However, on that day, she was crying and refusing to come out of the bus. It was learnt that the child had not received her Christmas gift from the teacher. The mother tried pacifying her, but it did not work.

It was a sheer coincidence that my sister had wanted to give that child a small Christmas gift. However, she had not been able to do so until then and was wondering how to send it. To her surprise, she happened to see the child's father returning from work. My sister hurriedly went out of her house carrying a small bag, stopped him abruptly and said, "Sir! This is a small gift for your daughter." He was taken aback by the gesture and went home, only to see his daughter still crying. As soon as the child received the gift, the crying stopped and the little one began jumping around.

A little later, there was a knock at my sister's door. She saw the child, mother and grandmother. She invited them in, and before sitting down, the child extended a carry bag while the mother said, "A small Christmas gift for you."

The bag contained a tin of hotcake. It was a complete surprise for my sister, for she had never expected anything in return for the empathy she had shown. What a coincidence, all the way!

It is perhaps difficult for many of us to understand the dynamics of empathy; often, it is substituted by sympathy. Such empathetic behaviour could transform the world into "God's Own Country" – a world full of peace, love and joy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fences won't fix past mistakes

Apropos 'Fence all government vacant properties, revenue minister tells officials' (Jan 28), the government's move to fence vacant land parcels in Bengaluru is a classic case of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. For decades, vast tracts of valuable public land were left unprotected, enabling large-scale encroachment by developers, politicians, and other influential interests. By the time preventive measures are being enforced, thousands of crores worth of government properties have already been lost, converted, or litigated away. While fencing may prevent further encroachments, it does little to address past failures of governance, weak enforcement, and collusion. Bengaluru now requires not merely physical barriers, but a credible land audit, swift recovery mechanisms, and accountability to restore public confidence and safeguard remaining state assets.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Prison reform

The editorial, 'Uniformity is integral to prison reform' (Jan 28), is a timely reminder of the importance of maintaining uniformity and equality in the treatment of prisoners. Allowing home-cooked food for prisoners, both convicts and under-trial prisoners, would violate Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. It would give an advantage to prisoners who can get food from their homes in Bengaluru over those who cannot, for reasons such as not being from Bengaluru. The prison authorities should provide quality and nutritious food to all prisoners and cater, as far as possible, to all food habits. There should be no discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth. It is not correct to require prisoners to do menial jobs; these should be done by staff appointed for the purpose.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Restore decorum

I refer to 'Karnataka: Congress, Opposition battle it out in Council' (Jan 28). The chaos in the Karnataka Council reflects a worrying decline in legislative decorum. Debating a Governor's address – whether to thank or criticise it – must happen through dialogue, not disruption. Silencing elected members undermines democratic norms and weakens public trust in the House. Political differences should be argued, not shouted down.

Ariba Moin, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The 2026 Assembly elections will be unforgettable for Prime Minister Narendra Modi; it is an NDA vs Tamil Nadu fight.

M K Stalin, Tamil Nadu CM

It's only hubris if I fail.

Julius Caesar

TO BE PRECISE

A four-lane flyover narrows into two lanes in Mumbai

IN PERSPECTIVE

Lit fests and the missing stories

Marginalised voices don't always make it to the line-ups. Change can begin with equitable access to English

RAVINARAYAN CHAKRAKODI

It is that time of the year again – the literature festival season. India celebrates the written word in every possible form by holding these events in many cities. The festivals shape a cultural trend, build public curiosity around books and ideas, and turn literature into a shared civic experience. In many ways, literature festivals now function like modern public squares – spaces where society gathers to listen, question, disagree, and reflect.

The festivals are enriching not merely because of the range of sessions they offer but because of the deeper questions they provoke about literature, representation, and democracy. They also reaffirm something we often forget: literature is far more than prose and poetry. It is an expansive universe that includes politics, journalism, economics, gender studies, cinema, sports, ecology, and the many disciplines that shape human life. Writing in any field that speaks to social realities is also literature. That is why festivals today host discussions not only on fiction and poetry, but also on public policy, climate change, migration, digital life, and the ethics of representation. Literature becomes a meeting point for ideas.

And this is where a troubling pattern emerges – whose voices are heard, whose voices are we celebrating, and whose voices are missing? When people speak admiringly of Gen Z as expressive, bold, and progressive in these literary gatherings, who exactly are they referring to? Not those children who are from the disadvantaged sections of society, not those in government schools, not young people living at society's margins. Too often, a small slice of urban middle-class youth is presented as if it represents an entire generation. This selective visibility becomes sharper in mainstream English literary spaces, where participation often depends on cultural capital – education, accent, networks, and access to English.

Indian literature is not a single stream. It is multilingual, layered, and deeply shaped by social realities. Many Indian-language traditions, including Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, and Marathi, have long histories of social critique and inclusion. They have produced writers who speak directly about caste, labour, gender, hunger, migration, and injustice. But English literature showcased at many festivals remains dominated by the middle and upper classes. Even when festivals speak of diversity, representation can become symbolic rather than structural.

The literature of the marginalised remains underrepresented in many mainstream festival line-ups. This absence is not because writings of the marginalised do not exist in English. Dalit texts exist in English translation, and Dalit authors write in English too. Yet they rarely receive sustained space on national literary platforms. The question is uncomfortable but necessary: are such voices excluded because they "have no voice"? Or because they do not fit the fluency norms and cultural codes of elite spaces?

A structural exclusion

If fluency becomes the gate, the failure lies not with the writers but with the education system that has historically withheld English from communities that need it most. This brings us to a crucial point that literature festivals must confront more directly: teaching English to the marginalised is not a luxury; it is a responsibility.

It is not enough to teach English as a subject. English must also become a medium through which Dalit, Adivasi, and disadvantaged students learn science, history, philosophy, politics, music, and economics. Only then can they write about these subjects in English and enter national forums, academic discourses, publishing networks, and literature festivals with confidence and authority.

For too long, English literature in India has been guarded – consciously or unconsciously – by elite and middle-class gatekeepers. Indian-language literatures are respected but often through polite admiration rather than equal platforming. Even when festivals invite writers from marginalised communities, they are sometimes positioned as "special sessions" rather than as central voices shaping the festival's intellectual agenda.

We speak at festivals about gender, identity, climate, technology, popular culture, cinema, and global politics. Yet we often leave out the most transformative issue of all: education. If literature festivals aspire to be democratic cultural spaces, they must begin by asking: Where are the marginalised? Why do their stories not appear on our panels? Why are they not on our stages? Inclusion cannot be a decorative gesture. It must be structural.

And that inclusion begins long before the festival, inside classrooms, libraries, government schools, community reading spaces, and public universities. It begins with access, with English, with opportunity, and with voice. Only then will literature festivals truly represent the full spectrum of Indian life – not just everything and everyone, but also those who have long been left outside the gates.

(The writer is a professor and academic head at the Regional Institute of English South India, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru)

From boomtown to building traps: Noida's unfinished story

DATELINE Noida

SUMIT PANDE

'Naveda, Naveda, Naveda,' bellowed conductors soliciting passengers to the 'killer' Red Line private buses that operated between Noida and Delhi's Connaught Place. Infamous for mowing down pedestrians with an uncanny regularity, the buses were phased out as connectivity between Delhi and its satellite towns improved, with the Delhi Metro spreading its tentacles far and wide over the last two decades.

Improved connectivity and a burgeoning population made housing, especially affordable housing, a promising proposition in Gurugram, Faridabad and Noida. While the first prospered due to its proximity to the Delhi airport, Faridabad, spread on either side of the Delhi-Mumbai railway line, evolved as an industrial town.

Noida (acronym for New Okhla Industrial Development Authority), a brainchild of the last Congress chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Narain Dutt Tiwari, prospered (paradoxically to its name) as a residential township on the western outpost of the state, contiguous to Delhi.

For migrants pouring into the national capital for jobs and livelihood, Noida offered a viable residential option. You could live in Noida and commute to Delhi for work. Soon, *Dilli-walas*, who once considered all residential suburbs in Jamuna-*paar* (across the Yamuna) as infra-dig, too crossed the bridge. If it took just 40 minutes to reach your shop in crammed Chandni Chowk, it made sense to shift to a gated condominium and take the Metro to the workstation.

For bureaucrats from UP and adjoining states looking for a second home their children could use while pursuing higher studies in Delhi, investing in a Noida property made sense as well.

Ergo, a development authority was set up to plan a new township. Sectors were demarcated, bungalows were propped up on floodplains, and infrastructure was laid out in neat grids.

The authority acquired more land from farmers in adjoining villages for low-rise residential complexes. Initially, only the Noida Development Authority constructed and sold residential units through a lottery system.

A boom in the housing industry, propelled by easy access and the lowering of interest rates on housing loans, brought private players into the fray. And they came in droves.

Property dealers became real estate magnates overnight. The UP government lowered the entry threshold for builders by offering land with an initial payment of just 30% of the estimated cost. In 2009, the Mayawati government made further amendments to the rules to allow allocation with a mere 10%.

The dream run continued as the builders sold not just homes but dreams. Dreams of having your own address in the *Rajdhani*. A three-side open house for Mr Khosla. A pool-facing 3BHK for Mrs Arora. A duplex for Mr Banerjee. If you had a customer, the builders had a property.

People invested. They took loans, stayed in rented accommodation and paid EMIs in the hope of living under their own roof one day. Some got it; some continued waiting.

When the courts stepped in to question some of the largesse doled out by the UP government to the real estate sector operating in Noida, the markets collapsed. Builders had acquired large tracts of land by paying a nominal price, but projects remained pending on paper despite having mopped up crores of rupees in pre-launch bookings.

In one of the cases, that of Amrapali builders, the Supreme Court of India intervened to hand over the project to NBCC (India) Limited. But there are a dozen others that remain pending.

In some cases, buyers have been handed possession of properties without the signing of a registered deed, which is a tripartite agreement between the buyer, the seller and the Noida authority. Since dues to the Noida Development Authority have not been cleared, the authority would not sign it.

The Noida landscape is dotted with many incomplete projects where land was acquired or dug up for the construction years ago.

The recent death of a techie who drowned in a swamp generated by one such 40-foot-deep pit dug up in 2021 for the construction of a multi-storeyed complex in Noida is symptomatic of erratic and haphazard urban town planning in India. The deceased was an engineer in his mid-twenties, returning home post-midnight after a long day at work when his car fell into the waterbody. In zero visibility induced by heavy fog and near-zero temperatures, he kept shouting for help for over an hour atop the roof of his car before the vehicle went under.

Interestingly, Noida does not have a civic body. Or an elected municipality that could be held accountable by its residents. It is a unique arrangement where the development authority, helmed by a CEO, manages everything from horticulture and roads to garbage collection and development of new projects.

It is a city administered by three bureaucrats—the Gautam Budh Nagar district magistrate, the Noida Authority CEO and the police commissioner.

For many decades, the myth of losing power in Lucknow upon setting foot in Noida kept many chief ministers away from the richest city in UP. It finally took a politician-monk in Yogi Adityanath to break this superstition.

Noida, unlike Gurugram, has wide roads lined with trees, an effective drainage system and a decent green cover. Perhaps among the best residential suburbs in the National Capital Territory today.

With a little more conscientious planning, it could have been far better.

DHNS

Twenty-five years after the Kutch earthquake, a *DH* reporter who witnessed its aftermath recalls the terror of relentless aftershocks, the scale of human loss, and how the tragedy reshaped India's approach to disaster management

Gang of criminals prowling earthquake-hit areas
Fear knaws at survivors
Wake up call
Villages in Kutch district still incommunicado
Sepulchral silence stalks Anjar
Slums in Bhuj yet to receive any relief

Kutch, 2001: When the ground would not stop shaking

KALYAN RAY

The first night after I landed in Gujarat, a day after the Kutch earthquake twenty-five years ago, I could not sleep. The killer quake had flattened a large part of Ahmedabad. High-rise buildings had sunk into the ground with their occupants inside, and one could still hear their screams. I heard desperate cries for help from someone trapped inside a four-storey building buried underground. People were on edge as aftershocks—some of them quite strong—continued rocking the city every few minutes.

The earthquake occurred at 8.46 am on January 26, 2001. Its magnitude was 7.7 MW (6.9 on the Richter scale), and it lasted for about two minutes. The epicentre was at Chaubari village, located to the north of Bhachau in Kutch district, 65 km east of Bhuj and about 250 km west of Ahmedabad. Among other things, it is also remembered for the sheer number of aftershocks it generated. In the first fortnight after the earthquake, there were two major aftershocks of magnitudes of 5.9 and 5.3. There were 953 aftershocks in 2001, followed by 149 in 2002 and 53 in 2003.

By the time I returned to the hotel for the night's sleep—urgently needed as I was to travel to Bhuj the next day—Ahmedabad had experienced close to 200 aftershocks. The rocking continued throughout the night. Every few minutes, the hotel building would tremble, and I would sit upright, ready to jump out of the room at the first sign of a crack on the wall. After an hour or so, I gave up and came down to the ground floor near the reception, prepared to spend the rest of the night on a sofa.

The reception clerk on night duty understood my predicament. He offered me a bunk meant for hotel workers. Since it was on the ground floor and there were other staff members in the hall, I finally managed to sleep, hoping that if a big one came, at least a few minutes would be available to run to the street.

Fortunately, nothing untoward happened. The next morning I left for Bhuj. For the next two days, I slept in the backseat of the car—the driver slept in the front—and survived on a few packets of biscuits and water as I travelled to some of the worst-hit areas, such as Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau, Rapar and nearby villages. While travelling I picked up relief material from aid workers and distributed it to people who had received little support till then. I also worked as an interpreter for locals seeking help from foreign rescue teams.

At Anjar, a town known for vegetable dyes, knives and *bandhni* textiles, there was a peculiar sight. A few shops were open, and they were selling nothing but cheap perfumes and deodorants. The air was so heavy with the smell of rotting bodies lying by the roadside that it was impossible to walk around unless the nose was wrapped in a handkerchief almost soaked in perfume. Corpses covered in cloth lay along the road. Anjar was also the place where a Republic Day procession of 300 children and their teachers was buried under debris when buildings on both sides of a lane collapsed on them. The majority died.

How many were killed in the Kutch quake? Initial numbers cited by the authorities were very high. A Union minister even claimed that over 100,000 people might have died. Figures released by government agencies in the first week of February were around 16,000, which later rose to over 20,000, based on police and hospital records. A subsequent verification process revealed many overlaps and duplication of figures. The final death count was fixed at 13,805, of which 12,221 were from Kutch district.

Bhuj was completely devastated. The air inside the walled city, which was once filled with the sounds of goldsmiths and jewellery workers, stank of rotting corpses on the road. The 281-bed district civil hospital collapsed, killing 11 staff members and 182 patients.

The military hospital provided emergency care. By afternoon, a tent was set up at Jubilee Ground, suturing material was gathered from another hospital, anaesthetists were made available, and surgeries began, which continued over the next four days.

By the following day, more doctors from other cities reached Bhuj, ready to offer their services. In the initial days, there were problems with the availability of medicines, but things improved gradually. More temporary hospitals were set up on the ground, and a prefabricated hospital was created. I spent the night at Jubilee Ground inside the car, which continued rocking throughout the night.

The temblor brought down electricity and telephone lines. It led to a rise in crime, and people struggled to communicate their well-being to their relatives in other cities. I met two brothers who travelled over 200 km in 12 hours just to make a single STD call to their family in Mumbai.

The quake also damaged many historical monuments. Morbi's famous Darbargarh Palace, Mani Mandir, Nagar Darwaja, Wagamel and Green Tower—built by or associated with the royal family of Maharaja Waghji Thakur—were damaged substantially. So were the Shaking Minarets in Ahmedabad's Gomtipur. Bhuj's Kutch Museum, which showcased the region's craft and culture, was badly damaged.

According to an estimate by INTACH, at least 10,000 historically important sites, including palaces, old *havelis*, wells, *chhattries*, places of religious significance, clock towers, gateways, and pavilions, located across 250 towns and numerous villages, were affected by the earthquake.

Lack of coordination among officials in the wake of such a devastating tragedy was visible almost everywhere in the initial days, though things improved later. Communities came together to help each other.

The experience of the Bhuj quake was instrumental in conceptualising the National Disaster Management Authority and the raising of the National Disaster Management Force, along with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to provide legal backing to the two bodies. Gen N C Vij, who as Southern Army Commander played an instrumental role in the relief and rehabilitation work, was tasked with creating a dedicated authority to deal with all types of disasters.

Unhappy with the relief and rehabilitation work by the Keshubhai Patel government, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government at the Centre dispatched a young leader by the name of Narendra Modi to oversee the operations on the ground. Modi met journalists in Ahmedabad and assured them of help and support while they travelled to Kutch. Within a year, he became the chief minister of Gujarat—and the rest, as they say, is history.

Bridging India's medical divide

LAKSHMI ASHWIN GOWDA

In the architectural blueprint of India's Universal Health Coverage (UHC), there lies a silent, structural fault line: the rural-urban medical divide. While metropolitan centres boast robotic surgeries and medical tourism, rural India lacks even a basic antipyretic for a common fever. To bridge this chasm, India must move beyond battles over medical "mixopathy" and embrace clinical pragmatism. Empowering India's eight lakh AYUSH doctors to prescribe a carefully curated list of 47 essential allopathic drugs is not merely about "integration"; it is about decolonising healthcare delivery.

At the heart of this argument is a policy proposition. The '47-drug framework' outlined here is offered as a practical, tightly regulated solution to India's rural primary-care deficit. The principal objection to such reform is patient safety. But this proposal is neither reckless nor expansive. It does not argue for unrestricted allopathic practice by AYUSH doctors. Instead, it advances a clearly defined "restricted clinical privilege", centred on a vetted list of 47 essential medicines. This proposed safety shield includes basic, life-saving drugs such as antipyretics to prevent febrile seizures. Under the framework, every prescription would be governed by strict Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and backed by a mandatory six-month online bridge course in pharmacology. The online format allows for scalability, standardisation and verifiable certification, while enabling doctors to remain at their rural postings. The intent is not to dilute medical standards but to formally design a primary-care tier that protects rural citizens from the far more dangerous alternative they currently face—unregulated, uncertified quackery.

India is a global outlier in this regard. It is perhaps the only country where even a limited set of essential, life-saving drugs remains the exclusive preserve of the MBBS cadre. Critics often cite Western models to oppose pluralistic practice, but global experience points the other way.

In the United Kingdom, nurses and pharmacists function as "independent prescribers" after specific training. In the United States, nurse practitioners—often with fewer years of formal clinical training than Indian BAMS or BHMS doctors—form the backbone of rural primary care.

Against this backdrop, denying a five-and-a-half-year institutionally trained AYUSH doctor the right to prescribe paracetamol, while trusting far less-trained paramedics elsewhere, exposes a systemic irony that rural India can no longer afford.

The most compelling case for reform lies in its economic impact. India's healthcare system is trapped in a vicious poverty-health cycle. Nearly 70% of healthcare spending is out-of-pocket, much of it incurred by rural families forced to travel long distances for minor ailments.

First, legalising limited prescribing rights for AYUSH doctors helps eliminate the hidden "quack tax". In the absence of authorised prescribers, villagers turn to informal practitioners. Bringing AYUSH doctors into the formal system integrates them with the National Digital Health Mission.

Second, timely first-line treatment prevents minor illnesses from escalating into emergencies that drain a family's life savings.

Critics frequently invoke "mixopathy" as a rhetorical shield against reform. The legal window for this change already exists—it requires administrative clarity and resolve. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, specifically Rule 2(ee), the definition of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) can be explicitly expanded to include institutionally qualified AYUSH doctors as authorised prescribers for primary care.

The Supreme Court's ruling in the Mukhtiar Chand case (1998) upheld the State's power to notify practitioners of modern medicine. What is being proposed is a restricted, regulated clinical privilege.

Interactions with medical undergraduates across the country reveal a sobering consensus. Few join medical colleges aspiring to become general practitioners. The dominant ambition is specialisation and super-specialisation. As a result, rural primary care is treated as a temporary inconvenience before their postgraduate exams. This "specialist trap" leaves primary health centres with infrastructure without stable prescribers.

Ultimately, the health of a nation cannot be measured by the sophistication of its urban hospitals alone but by the accessibility of a single life-saving pill in its most remote hamlet. The 47-drug framework has the potential to bridge India's rural-urban health divide.

(The writer is a doctor, an ex-bureaucrat and Karnataka BJP state secretary)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Prasanna demolishes New Zealand

Auckland (New Zealand), January 28
Off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna with career best figures of 8 for 76 runs, bowled India to a magnificent eight wicket victory over New Zealand in the first Test here today. New Zealand resuming their second innings this morning at Monday's score of 161 for two -- yesterday was a rest day -- soon crumbled to the deadly bowling of Prasanna and Chandrasekhar to be all out for 215 in just 70 minutes of play leaving India to make 68 runs for outright victory. India did not take long to achieve the target and the match ended 20 minutes after lunch on the fourth day with a full day to spare.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

Fresh tremors rock Gujarat, toll reaches 20,000

Ahmedabad, Jan 28 (PTI)
A series of tremors today rocked Kutch, Ahmedabad and some other parts of Gujarat causing panic among the already stricken people as international teams joined rescue and relief efforts two days after the worst earthquake on the Republic Day that claimed up to 20,000 lives, injured 50,000 and rendered lakhs homeless. Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel told newsmen that the death toll could be between 15,000 and 20,000 and it was difficult to give exact figures of the extent of loss of lives and damage to property. As many as 15,000 people may have died in Bhuj alone, Mr Patel said.

OASIS | JAYANTHI CHANDRASEKARAN

Of humility in triumph and honesty in error

One of my grandfather's favourite quotes is "In triumph you walk with humility and in errors with honesty". He would further elaborate that these two postures, seemingly opposite, are in fact the twin pillars of character. Triumph is often intoxicating, leading to the temptation to believe that one is superior. But it's a fact that every success stands on the shoulders of a web of support.

The tennis legend Roger Federer's brilliance wasn't just in his effortless grace on the court but in his graciousness off it. Despite being frequently called 'the Greatest of All Time' by fans and commentators, he consistently avoided taking on the title himself. He always made sure to acknowledge the support of his wife, Mirka, his coaches, and his team of physios and trainers. He consistently credited his opponents and thanked ball boys, umpires, and fans, even at his peak dominance.

Sundar Pichai, Google's CEO, is another example of someone who avoids personal spotlight and celebrates team contributions more than his own. Coming from a modest home in Chennai, he acknowledges family, teachers and India's public education system for shaping him. His message to students is, "Always be kind and stay humble. Intelligence is easier to find than humility."

If triumph tests the ego, error tests one's integrity. In 1982, seven people died after taking cyanide-laced extra-strength Tylenol capsules sold in five Chicago stores. James Burke, the CEO of Johnson & Johnson, acted with transparent honesty. Although the contamination happened outside the company, he said, "We are responsible for protecting the people who trust our product." He ordered a nationwide recall, losing millions, went live before the media and answered every question openly and redesigned packaging with tamper-proof seals. Burke's integrity turned a public disaster into a benchmark study in ethical crisis management.

Rahul Dravid found himself accused of tampering with the ball in 2004 during an ODI against Zimbabwe and subsequently was fined 50% of his match fee. This incident is often interpreted through the lens of his impeccable reputation as "The Gentleman of Cricket". Because Dravid had always walked with honesty, the cricketing world was willing to accept the claim that the error was not a deliberate attempt to cheat.

Mistakes are universal, but the response to the error does differentiate one's character. To walk with honesty is not to erase the mistake but to face it, own it, and rise above it.

UDAN 2.0, 400 airports by 2047: Modi lays out aviation roadmap

Says air connectivity will multiply as India pushes affordable travel, fleet expansion

AJITH ATHRADY
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Centre is working on the next phase of the UDAN scheme to expand regional and affordable air connectivity and seaplane operations across the country.

In his virtual address at the aviation summit Wings India 2026 here, the PM said the NDA government in 2016 launched the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to make air travel affordable to the common people by connecting "unserved and underserved airports" in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

As a result of the scheme, 15 million passengers, around one and a half crore, have travelled on routes, many of which did not even exist earlier, he said.

Narendra Modi

The prime minister remarked that as India advances towards the goal of becoming a developed nation, the expansion of air connectivity is certain to multiply many times over.

He highlighted that by 2047, India is expected to have more than 400 airports, creating a vast network.

Pointing out that passenger traffic has grown rapidly, he said Indian airlines are expanding their fleets, with more than 1,500 aircraft ordered in recent years.

In 2014, India had 70 airports, while now the number has risen to more than 160. Over 100 aerodromes have been activated. By 2047, India is expected to have more than 400 airports, creating a vast network, he added.

The prime minister underlined that digital cargo platforms are simplifying and making the entire process more transparent, while off-airport processing arrangements are reducing the load on airports.

"Modern warehouses are being built to improve and accelerate cargo handling, which will reduce both delivery time and logistics costs in the future, he said. Underlining that India is set to emerge as a major and competitive trans-shipment hub, he urged investors to explore opportunities in warehousing, freight forwarding, express logistics, and e-commerce sectors.

Insisting that India emerged as a major global aviation hub, he called upon every nation, every industry leader, and every innovator to take full advantage of this golden opportunity.

SC clears up jurisdiction of Waqf tribunal in property disputes

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that there was no absolute and all-pervasive ouster of jurisdiction of civil courts even under Section 85 of the Waqf Act, 1995.

It declared that the resolution of disputes with respect to a property being a Waqf or not was expressly conferred on the Waqf Tribunal only for those properties specified in the "list of Auqaf".

A bench said, "Section 83 of the Act cannot be considered as a provision conferring jurisdiction on the tribunal with respect to matters in addition to which already jurisdiction has been conferred under other provisions of the Act."

Referring to Section 9 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the bench said even if the statute accorded finality to the tribunal's orders, a court would have to see whether the tribunal had the power to grant the reliefs that civil courts would normally grant, and there could ordinarily be no inference of exclusion of the civil courts' jurisdiction if the answer was in the negative.

Dealing with an appeal filed by Habib Alladin and others, the SC found the property was neither specified in the "list of auqaf" as published in Chapter II nor registered under Chapter V.

Martyr fund rows rock CPM ahead of Kerala polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Back-to-back allegations of misappropriation of party funds, especially those collected in the name of martyrs, have put the CPM on the defensive in Kerala, that too just ahead of the Assembly polls.

Soon after the allegations of misappropriation of funds in Kannur snowballed into a major row, the family of a martyr in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday came out with the allegation of martyr fund misappropriation. In both instances, the party has been accused of protecting the accused.

The resentment among party workers has already started surfacing, with many openly supporting expelled whistleblower V Kunhikrishnan, a former district committee member of the party at Payyannur in Kannur.

Sources close to the party said the misappropriation of funds raised in the name of martyrs could emotionally affect grassroots level workers.

Despite Kunhikrishnan alleging that around Rs 46 lakh was misappropriated from the funds collected to support the family of C V Dhanarajan, who was hacked to death allegedly by BJP-RSS workers in 2016, as well as building and election funds, party district secretary K K Ragesh was unwilling to make public the accounts, sources pointed out.

On Thursday, the brother of CPM worker V V Vishnu, who was murdered in Thiruvananthapuram in 2008, allegedly by BJP-RSS workers, alleged that even though the party collected Rs 10 lakh in his brother's name, only Rs 5 lakh was handed over to his mother.

Vishnu's brother Vinod also said the party was protecting a local leader involved in the misappropriation.

Family of 3 from Bihar found murdered in Tamil Nadu; 5 migrant workers arrested

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

A family of three, including a two-year-old boy, from Bihar was brutally murdered by a gang of five migrant workers when the husband attempted to save his wife from being sexually assaulted here on Sunday night, police said on Wednesday.

Five accused—all from Bihar—were arrested on Wednesday after the Chennai Police formed five special teams to nab the accused.

The incident sent shock waves across the state, with the body of the child being found on Wednesday, two days after his father was found bundled in a sack in upscale Adyar.

The body of the woman is yet to be found.

Initial reports said the five people who sexually assaulted the woman were intoxicated. The deceased have been identified as Gaurav Kumar and Munitha Kumari.

Questions on safety raised

Opposition parties latched onto the incident to raise questions about public safety and the state of law and order under the DMK dispensation.

"This horrific incident stands as a grim reflection of the growing lawlessness in the state under the corrupt DMK government, where even the most basic right to life and safety appears to be eroding even in the capital city of the state," former state BJP chief K Annamalai said.

The police said the body of Gaurav Kumar was found in Adyar on Monday, and they found a piece of paper in his trouser pocket on which a mobile number was written.

"When we contacted the number, we got to know that he sought a job at a private firm in Adyar, and they told him that there are no vacancies. It was also learnt that Gaurav then joined as a security guard in a polytechnic in Taramani and was living on the campus," a police officer said.

Police detained seven people who were friends with Gaurav, and during interrogation it was found that five of them attempted to sexually assault his wife, which led to the murder.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BOY, TECHNOLOGY IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE LIFE EASIER, BUT IT JUST MAKES EVERYTHING MORE COMPLICATED!
OH?
YEAH! I JUST SPENT 30 MINUTES DOING SOMETHING I PROBABLY COULD HAVE DONE IN 5 MINUTES OTHERWISE!
WHAT WAS IT?
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH DELIVERY APP CAN GET MY PIZZA HERE THE FASTEST!

Hagar The Horrible

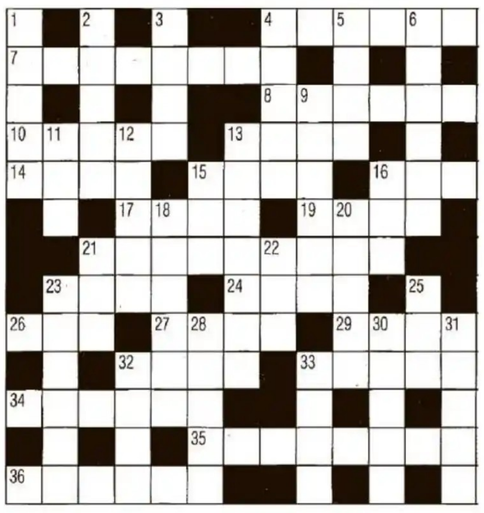
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL EVENING
THE WARM AIR STIRS MEMORIES
I'LL BET IT BRINGS BACK THOUGHTS OF THE OLD POPPY HILL DAISY FARM, DOESN'T IT?
THAT'S DAISY HILL PUPPY FARM!!
BONK!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12342



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 High enough to be a record in Middlesex? (6)
7 A sound legal document from the benevolent people? (4,4)
8 The Beatles had one to ride (6)
10 Finish breakfast with something to eat in a moment (5)
13 Thankless errata can be exceptional (4)
14 Every one has a terrible ache (4)
15 Simon turning up again! (4)
16 Do you do so with emphasis? (3)
17 Dad exploits them as delays (4)
19 Connects with matches (4)
21 Where there's a river crossing (9)
23 Reason for a visit (4)
24 She's said to be slimmer (4)
26 The method to get distance (3)
27 Attracted a doctor opposite ways (4)
29 Imagining there's no monarch is pretty unconvincing (4)
32 Area low and to the right (4)
33 River of service to me (5)
34 Statements made possessively (6)
35 Quotations from old religious writings (8)
36 They feed the people (6)

DOWN
1 An entrance of stone (5)
2 To be no-end nice is good for you! (5)
3 During a wet week, it's just too cute (4)
4 Table carved from the rock? (5)
5 Walk at speed (4)
6 Out of line, they're relatively apt to make a scene (6)
9 Cromwellian general whose anger was weighty? (6)
11 Is he apt to be called Sunshine? (3)
12 Chuck is after Charlie, the boor! (5)
13 Evidently he doesn't steal silently (7)
15 As used in writing a pointed article? (3)
16 Where to sleep if you live at Land's End (3)
18 Rarely producing new models (6)
20 I scold when angry (5)
21 Sea-horse? (3)
22 Like the risks in safe work (3)
23 Short of experience, visit the town centre (6)
25 Her opposition helped make history (3)
28 Those blooming things round the door? (5)
30 A feeling about the part of 'Quasimodo' (5)
31 Informative in a fresh way (5)
32 Neither severe nor bitter (4)
33 There's mud on the motorway again! (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Hair colour (6)
7 Slaughterhouse (8)
8 Car shed (6)
10 Dosh (5)
13 Warm and snug (4)
14 Complete extent (4)
15 Tins (4)
16 Squib (3)
17 Pronounce indistinctly (4)
19 Revise (4)
21 Ensure (9)
23 Eager (4)
24 Singlet (4)
26 Bad actor (3)
27 Talon (4)
29 Dutch cheese (4)
32 Lacking fat (4)
33 Examine thoroughly (5)
34 Military trainees (6)
35 Quivers (8)
36 Against (6)

DOWN
1 Pacifies (5)
2 Steam bath (5)
3 Remain (4)
4 Gaseous element (5)
5 Inter (4)
6 Richly seasoned stew (6)
9 Valuable commodities (6)
11 Choose (3)
12 Follow (5)
13 Towed vehicle (7)
15 Vicious dog (3)
16 Perish (3)
18 Surgical knife (6)
20 Discourage (5)
21 Jewel (3)
22 Novel (3)
23 Martial art (6)
25 Short quick punch (3)
28 Continues (5)
30 Toys (5)
31 Untidy (5)
32 Lower limbs (4)
33 Cougar (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12341

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Pull up 7, Left ho.-OK 8, Co.-MA 10, Sp-OK-en 11, Impact 14, Red 16, Padre 17, Roar 19, Cover 21, Pared 22, MA-rat 23, Ma's-T 26, Sever 28, Ti-M 29, Prance 30, M-use-um 31, Omen 32, Collects 33, Taster.
DOWN: 1, Purser 2, Lo-OK-er 3, Plan 4, Stamped 5, Nomad 6, Skate 8, Cora 9, (the) Med 12, Par 13, Cross 15, Moral 18, Order 19, Car 20, V-e-t 21, P-arched 22, Me-N 23, Mis-er-s 24, A-men 25, Timber 26, Specs 27, Vault 28, Tum 30, Mo-st.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Brutal 7, Alfresco 8, Burn 10, Stupid 11, Facade 14, Fed 16, Talon 17, Safe 19, Manor 21, Loser 22, Habit 23, Rhea 26, Bacon 28, Nee 29, Editor 30, Honest 31, Idol 32, One-sided 33, Ernest.
DOWN: 1, Bursts 2, Toupee 3, Land 4, Creator 5, Usual 6, Dozen 8, Buff 9, Rid 12, Car 13, Dodge 15, Basic 18, Ahead 19, Mob 20, Net 21, Lanolin 22, Hot 23, Renown 24, Heel 25, Artist 26, Besom 27, Cider 28, Nod 30, Hide.

◆SU-DO-KU-6816◆

					9		2	3
			2				6	
			5	6		4	7	
		2		9		7	8	
9	7						4	6
	1	4		7		5		
	2	6		1	5			
	3				8			
4	8		9					

hard

SOLUTION TO 6815

8	9	7	4	5	2	6	3	1
5	4	6	3	1	7	8	9	2
1	2	3	9	6	8	5	4	7
3	6	9	2	4	5	7	1	8
4	1	8	7	3	6	9	2	5
2	7	5	8	9	1	3	6	4
9	8	1	5	2	3	4	7	6
6	5	4	1	7	9	2	8	3
7	3	2	6	8	4	1	5	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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E1	H4	C3	T1	P3	R1	A1	5th Letter Triple	RACK 1
T1	L1	V4	A1	E1	O1	G2		RACK 2
I1	V4	S1	A1	T1	N1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
H4	N1	C3	P3	S1	I1	O1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 L1 B3 E1 I1 T1	RACK 1 =	24
E1 P3 I1 G2 R1 A1 M3	RACK 2 =	74
A1 S1 T1 O1 U1 N1 D2	RACK 3 =	58
E1 X8 T1 R1 U1 D2 E1	RACK 4 =	65
	JUDD'S TOTAL	221

PAR SCORE 145-155

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUPDO

SEBSL

PAHNEP

UTAEDP

Hey, look! It's a doggy! "Ruff! Ruff!"
What are you thinking? Put that skull down!
HE DIDN'T MAKE A VERY GOOD ARCHAEOLOGIST BECAUSE HE WAS A ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FILMY HANDY DEBATE GROUCH
Answer: With elevations over 4,000 feet, the Gobi Desert is not a place to get — LEFT HIGH AND DRY

HITORI-3270

7	6	4	6	6	3	8	6
2	4	8	6	6	5	5	7
5	6	1	2	7	8	3	6
6	8	7	4	3	1	2	6
4	7	6	3	2	6	5	3
6	2	6	7	1	8	4	5
7	5	3	2	8	2	1	4
3	6	5	1	5	6	4	4

SOLUTION TO 3269

7	1	5	8	2	■	4	3
■	7	3	■	5	2	1	■
1	5	■	4	■	6	■	2
3	■	7	1	4	■	6	8
6	2	■	5	■	1	7	■
■	4	8	6	7	■	3	5
4	8	6	2	1	3	5	7
2	■	1	■	3	5	■	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3270

SOLUTION TO 3269

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3811

■	1		2					■
9	■			3			■	
3		■				5		
2			1	6	■	7		
6		3		■			8	
	4		■		■			
7		■	9	2	6	■		
	6		8	1		4	■	
■		2						3

SOLUTION TO 3810

4	1	9	2	7	6	8	5	3
8	2	6	5	4	3	7	9	1
7	3	5	1	9	8	2	6	4
6	7	8	3	1	4	9	2	5
3	9	2	7	8	5	1	4	6
5	4	1	6	2	9	3	7	8
9	8	7	4	5	1	6	3	2
2	5	3	8	6	7	4	1	9
1	6	4	9	3	2	5	8	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 182 GRC 2025 **Date: 16.12.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Police Inspector, Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Crime Branch, Economic Offences Wing, Bengaluru City and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Pramya International, Bengaluru is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Pramya International, Bengaluru and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Pramya International Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Pramya International Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Police Inspector, Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Crime Branch, Economic Offences Wing, Bengaluru City and investigation officer for Pramya International Bengaluru Fraudulent Company and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Pramya International Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the immovable and movable properties as specified in the Annexure 1, 2, and 3 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Pramya International Bengaluru either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Pramya International Bengaluru, and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable and movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿವರ (ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮಾಲಿಕ	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಷರಾ
1	ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ, ಕನಕಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಅವರೆ ಮಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ.225/10 ರಲ್ಲಿ 0–06 (ಆರು) ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು **ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ** ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಗೌರಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಜೆ. ಸಿ. ಹನುಮೇಗೌಡ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ಶಿವಣ್ಣ ಬಿನ್‌ಗಿರಿಗೌಡ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ರಸ್ತೆ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಸೀಬಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್‌ಮಾರೇಗೌಡ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸೌಮ್ಯ ಕೋಂ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. 29 ವರ್ಷ	**ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು** ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸೌಮ್ಯ **ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು** ಪ್ರದೀಪ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ KNK-1-04243-2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–07–2022 ರಂದು ಕನಕಪುರ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.	2,70,000/–	****	ಪ್ರಕರಣದ: ಎ–1 ಆರೋಪಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್. ಜಿ. ಎಸ್. ಈತನ ಪತ್ನಿಯಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸೌಮ್ಯ ರವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. *** ವಿಶೇಷ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥೀರೀಕರಣ ಆದೇಶ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪಕರಿಂದ ಮಾಪನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
2	ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕನಕಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಅವರೆಮಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ.226/33ರಲ್ಲಿ 0–03–12 (ಮೂರು ಮುಕ್ಕಾಲು) ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು **ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ** ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ:ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪ ನವರ ಜಮೀನು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಣ್ಣಮರಿಯಣ್ಣ ನವರ ಜಮೀನು ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪ ಉರುಫ್‌ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮರಿ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ:ಸಿದ್ದೇಗೌಡ ಉರುಫ್‌ಸಿಡೇಪಿಳ್ಳಣ್ಣ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಪ್ರದೀಪ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ 30 ವರ್ಷ, ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ 27 ವರ್ಷ	**ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು** 1) ಪ್ರದೀಪ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ 2) ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ **ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು** 1) ಕೆಂಪಯ್ಯ 2) ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವಿಜಯಮ್ಮ 3) ತ.ಳ. ಪಂಕಜಾಕ್ಷಿ. ಕೆ.ಆರ್ 4) ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ರೇಖಾ 5) ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಶಾಂತಮ್ಮ ಜಿ.ಕೆ. KNK-1-04976-2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–07–2022 ರಂದು ಕನಕಪುರ ಉಪ–ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.	7,90,000/–	****	ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಎ–1 ಆರೋಪಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ಮತ್ತು ಈತನ ತಮ್ಮನಾದ ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ ರವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **** ವಿಶೇಷ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥೀರೀಕರಣ ಆದೇಶ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪಕರಿಂದ ಮಾಪನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸ ಲಾಗುವುದು.
3	ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕನಕಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಗೋದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ.71/4ರಲ್ಲಿ 0–24.08 (ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತು ನಾಲ್ಕುವರೆ) ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು **ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ** ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ:ಡಾ॥ ಚಂದ್ರಯ್ಯನವರ ಜಮೀನು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ:ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ:ಡಾ॥ಚಂದ್ರಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ:ಇದೇ ನಂಬರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮದೇ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಜಮೀನು.	ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. 27 ವರ್ಷ	**ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು** ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. **ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು** 1) ರಾಜು 2)ಗಿರೀಶ್.ಜಿ.ಆರ್ KNK-1-13628-2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23–01–2023 ರಂದು ಕನಕಪುರ ಉಪ–ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ	8,75,000/–	****	ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಎ–1 ಆರೋಪಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್. ಜಿ. ಎಸ್. ಈತನ ತಮ್ಮನಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಅಭಿಷೇಕ್. ಜಿ. ಎಸ್ ರವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **** ವಿಶೇಷ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥೀರೀಕರಣ ಆದೇಶ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪಕರಿಂದ ಮಾಪನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸ ಲಾಗುವುದು.
4	ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕನಕಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಚೀಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ.87/6 ರಲ್ಲಿ 08.08 (ಎಂಟುವರೆ) ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು **ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ:** ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಶಿವಣ್ಣನವರ ಜಮೀನು. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ರಸ್ತೆ. ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ವಿಜಯಮ್ಮ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು. ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಉಮರಾಣಿರವರ ಜಮೀನು.	ಪ್ರದೀಪ್. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. 29 ವರ್ಷ	**ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು** ಪ್ರದೀಪ್.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ **ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು** ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಗಾಯಿತ್ರಮ್ಮ ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ ಶ್ವೇತ KNK-1-04766-2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11/08/2023 ರಂದು ಕನಕಪುರ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.	7,48,000/–	****	ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಎ–1 ಆರೋಪಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ರವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **** ವಿಶೇಷ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥೀರೀಕರಣ ಆದೇಶ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪಕರಿಂದ ಮಾಪನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸ ಲಾಗುವುದು.

Annexure-2

Details of Seized Gold Ornaments

Sl.No.	PF No.	Details of Ornaments	Present Market Value (in Rs.)
1	96/2023	1) Gold ring 4 gram 2) Gold ring 5 gram 3) Gold chain 20 gram	**17,40,000/-**

Annexure-3

Details of Seized Cash:

Sl.No.	PF No.	Details of Cash
01	96/2023	Rs. 5,06,000/-
02	97/2023	Rs. 2,00,000/-
	Total	Rs. 7,06,000/-

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/5255/2025-26

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department
No.1 Building Division, S.J.P. Campus, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-22255210

No. EE/Bld1/AE-LH,1,4/2025-26/74 Date: 27.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for providing Wooden Flooring, False Ceiling, Polishing, Painting, Providing necessary chairs, Providing improvements and repairs to swerline, Rain Water Harvesting System, Waterproofing works, improvements to open court yard, Bathroom repairs, Aluminum works, providing Mosquito mesh, providing Wardrobe, Modular Kitchen, Vinyl Flooring and other development works, total of 0**6 works** at various notified places. Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 7.24 lakhs, Max. Rs. 118.62 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 9,100/-, Max. Rs. 2,00,000/-.** Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Period of Completion: **from 2 Months to 3 Months (including rainy season)** for each work. Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **03.02.2026 up to 4.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, approx. amount, EMD, No. of Call, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/5239/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.6 Canal Division, Ballari

Tender Notification-Call-2

Reference: This office tender notification No:1719;
Dated: 27.01.2026

The Executive Engineer, KNNL No.6 Canal Division, Ballari on behalf of Managing Director KNNL, Bangalore invites the tender for 3 works namely WI.3397 WI.3407 & WI.3398 with Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) of Rs.251.25 Lakhs, Rs.209.27 Lakhs, & Rs.209.31 Lakhs respectively in the Jurisdiction of this Division under the head of account 4701 from the registered eligible contractors in the KPWD, GOK on Two Cover system basis through Karnataka public procurement portal.

The bidders can access and download blank tender document through e-procurement from 30.1.2026 from 11.00 AM onwards

The last date for the submission of tenders is 02.03.2026 up to 4.30 pm, Technical bid opening date is 03.03.2026 at 5.00 pm and Financial bid opening date is 13.03.2026 at 5.00 pm or after approval of Technical Bid.

The Tender documents can be viewed / downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any changes either in tender details or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPPP Portal only. Separate notification in this regards will not be published.

For any additional information, the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours or submit the request through office email: eeno6cdbly@yahoo.in for information.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL,No.6 Canal Division, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/936/KSMCA/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ

ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560081
ಫೋನ್: 080–27832411, E-Mail: ka.chandapura.tmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಚಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ/ಟೆಂ/08/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ, 2025–26ನೇ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (As Per Government order No.FD 4 PCL 2008, Bangalore, dated:14.10.2008 and Government Order No. FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 10/10/2027 and A&B Value Considered Upto 2024-25)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54318	29.90
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54320	29.90
3	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54321	29.90
4	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54323	29.90

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:12.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–27832411 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ	ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ	ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/5234/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(PROC)-3/AEE7/2025-26/5660-673 Date: 28.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Number **KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3214**

a) Strengthening of existing 66KV Chintamani_Iragampalli SC Line on SC tower with Coyote ACSR conductor by DC Line on 110KV DC Narrow Based KPTCL design towers with Drake ACSR conductor from 220/66/11KV Chintamani sub-station up to 66/11KV Iragampalli sub-station for a distance of 19.068Km.

b) Re-arrangement of 66kV Bays at existing 220/66/11kV Chintamani sub-station for accommodating proposed additional bays for Iragampalli, Shidlagatta and Talagawara lines.

c) Providing 02 no's of 66kV Terminal bays at 220/66/11kV Chintamani sub-station in Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura Dist. and Dismantling portion for Re-arangement of 66KV Bays at Existing 220/66/11KV Chintamani sub-station for accommodating proposed additional bays for Iragampalli, Shidlaghatta and Talagawara Lines.

d) Providing one Number of 66kV line terminal bay at 66/11kV Iragampalli S/s in Chinthamani Taluk Chickkaballapura Dist.

On Total Turn Key Basis, Including supply of all matching materials/equipment mandatory spares and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning De-commissioning of materials/equipments along with **buy back of released materials.**

Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 18.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.01.2026. Any extension of due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech), KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009.

Karnataka State Open University
Mukthagangothri, Mysuru, Karnataka - 570006

No.KSOU/IT/CW-03/AMC of CCTV/119/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026

Tender Notification

Apropos approval of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru invites short term e-Tender as per **"KTPP ACT 2000"** in two cover system(Technical bid & Financial bid) for Annual Maintenance for Contract of Intelligent Centralized Surveillance system at KSOU, Mysuru.

Interested eligible bidders may upload the tender by downloading the information in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. For more information contact Registrar, KSOU, Mysuru during office hours (Phone: 0821-2512471).

(Tender Number: KSOU/2025-26/SE0018)

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Mysore/Shirdi Sai/1753/2025-26

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಟೌನ್ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಎದುರು, ಡಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–561203
ದೂ.ಸಂ:080–2956 2046 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:**dpa.dbpura2018@gmail.com**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 40.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮೀರದಂತೆ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕುಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ TPA/2025-26/AUCTION72 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026 ರ ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗೆ** ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Commissioner, Corporation office complex, 2nd floor, 9th Main Road, 9th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011

No: AC (A)/PR/248/2025-26 Date: 27.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible law graduates or newly admitted lawyers for the post of **"LEGAL ASSISTANT"** in the office of the Head of Legal Cell.

The tenure of the said post is 11 months and the recruitment will be on the basis of honorarium of **Rs. 30,000/-** per month.

- Selection method through direct interview.
- Application should be submitted along with complete bio-data and official documents.

Address to apply The Commissioner, Bengalore South City Corporation, Corporation Office Complex, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, 9th Cross Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar Bangalore-560011.

Only applications submitted by post on or before **09.02.2026** duly mentioning "Application for the post of Legal Assistant" will be considered.

Sd/- Additional Commissioner (Development)
Bengaluru South City Corporation

Bangalore West City Corporation, Zone-1
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, No.340/A, 5th Main Road, R.H.C.S. Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagar Bangalore-560091.

No: SADH/BWCC/RRN/TENDER/04 /2025-26 Date: 28.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/ Agencies/ Firms registered in Labour department Maintenance of Parks. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract (standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) for the works detailed in the table below

Sl. No	Name of the Work (Two Cover System)
1	Beautification Horticulture Maintenance works and Other Emergency works at Yeshwanthpura Assembly Constituency Parks. Estimate cost: **Rs.15,23,000/-**, EMD Amount: **Rs.30,460/-**, Category: **Others**
2	Beautification Horticulture Maintenance works and Other Emergency works at Rajarajeshwarinagar Assembly Constituency Parks. Estimate cost: **Rs.12,56,000/-**, EMD Amount: **Rs.25,120/-**, Category: **Others**

Calendar of events as follows: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **31.01.2026. (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents: **On 05.02.2026 upto 5.00 PM. (3)** Opening of technical document: **On 06.02.2026 at 11.00 PM Onward. (4)** Financial opening: **After Approval of Technical bid.**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Bengaluru West City Corporation Zone-1, Rajarajeshwarinagar

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification-33/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026(Call-3)
Ref:1. Short Term Tender Notification- 19/2025-26 Date: 23-10-2025
2. Short Term Tender Notification- 25/2025-26 Date: 10-12-2025(Call-2)
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/CPWD Class-I and Above. The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

"Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Tank Filling Scheme System for filling up of 15tanks by lifting water from Dandavathi River in SorabaTaluk of Shivamogga District consisting of the following components: construction of Bridge cum Barrage, Intake structure, Jackwell cum pump house, Pumping machineries, 11/0.433KV sub-station, 11 KV Transmission line and 11 KV Terminal bay, Rising main, Pressure distribution network, surge analysis and protection system for filling up of 15 tanks including supply of spares parts and tools, O & M for five years after successful commissioning of the work under Yadagoppa Tank fillingscheme on turn-key basis". (INDENT No: 3317) Work Amount put to tender **Rs. 34.93 Crores** and EMD **Rs.0.30 Crores**

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on **28.01.2026 to 27.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2)** Date of Pre bid meeting:**10.02.2026 @11.00AM.**(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga **3)** Opening of technical bid will be on **02.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-**28.01.2026** at **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division, Shikaripura

DIPR/SMG/No-191-01/zenkar/2025-26

No need for India to recall diplomats' families: B'desh

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain on Wednesday said there was "no reason" for India to recall family members of its diplomats from the country, stressing that there is no security situation endangering foreign officials or their families.

India last week decided to withdraw the families of Indian officials posted in Bangladesh in view of safety concerns following increasing activities of extremist elements in the country. The move came weeks ahead of Bangladesh's February 12 general elections.

Apart from the High Commission in Dhaka, India has diplomatic posts in Khulna, Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

"There is no situation here that would indicate danger for Indian diplomats," Hossain told a media briefing at the foreign ministry.

Hossain also said Bangladesh had not received any formal communication from India regarding specific security concerns.

"Perhaps they have some apprehension or want to convey a message, but I cannot identify any clear reason," said Hossain, who has previously served as deputy high commissioner in India.

Trump threatens Iran with 'far worse' attack

West Asian leaders worry over possible American strike on Iran

US President Donald Trump speaks to the media prior to his departure from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

WASHINGTON/DUBAI, AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened a possible military attack on Iran, warning that any future strike would be "far worse" as protests and a bloody crackdown continue inside the Islamic Republic, fuelling regional and international concern.

It remains unclear whether Trump will authorise the use of force, though he laid down two red lines: the killing of peaceful demonstrators and the possible mass execution of detainees. Activists say at least 6,221 people have been killed in Iran's crackdown on nationwide protests that erupted a month ago, with many more feared dead.

"Hopefully Iran will quickly come to the table and negotiate a fair and equitable deal — No nuclear weapons — one that is good for all parties," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Time is running out, it is truly of the essence!" Referring to US strikes on Iran in June, Trump added: "The next attack will be far worse!"

As fears of a US strike mounted, Iranian officials reached out to countries across the Middle East. Saudi Arabia and the UAE said they would not allow their airspace to be used for any attack on Iran. At the same time, the US moved the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and several guided missile destroyers into the region, capable of launching attacks from the sea. Iran's mission to the UN responded sharply, posting on X that "Iran stands ready for dialogue based on mutual respect and interests — but if pushed, it will defend itself and respond like never before!"

Meanwhile, Iran's economic crisis deepened. The rial fell to a record low of 1.6 million to the dollar, according to currency traders. The currency collapse helped spark the protests, which later broadened into a direct challenge to Iran's ruling theocracy.

Diplomatic efforts to prevent escalation continued. Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty spoke separately with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff to avoid further instability. Turkey also urged restraint, warning that any intervention could trigger wider regional chaos and a refugee influx.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian that the kingdom would not allow its territory or airspace to be used for military action against Iran, echoing a similar pledge from the UAE. Both countries host US military assets and have previously faced attacks linked to Iran or its allies.

ABBAS ARAGHCHI
Iranian foreign minister

"Applying diplomacy through military threats cannot be effective.

10 US WARSHIPS

- The US has stationed 10 warships in West Asia after an aircraft carrier strike group arrived last week, increasing pressure on Tehran.

Doctors examine Imran Khan after party raises eye ailment issue

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan was examined by a team of government doctors in Adiala Jail on Wednesday following concerns raised by his party over his eye ailment.

However, the government is yet to issue an official statement on his health condition.

"A doctors' team of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has a medical check-up of Imran Khan in Adiala Jail," a Punjab government official told PTI.

He said the nature of Khan's ailment or infection would be made public after the doctors submitted their report. Khan, 73, has been incarcerated since August 2023, currently serving a sentence at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case.

In a social media post on Tuesday, Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party claimed that he was diagnosed with Central Retinal Vein Occlusion in his right eye, a condition which involves a blockage in the retinal vein and "carries a high risk of permanent damage" to eyesight if not treated promptly and properly.

The party criticised the government and jail authorities for not allowing Khan to be shifted to a hospital for specialised treatment. "The jail administration is stubbornly insisting that the treatment be carried out inside the jail," it said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Firefighters battle a blaze at the five-star Grandes Alpes hotel in the French Alpine ski resort of Courchevel on Wednesday. All the 83 occupants were safely evacuated. AFP

Ex-Lankan prez Wickremesinghe to be indicted for graft in March

▸ Sri Lanka's former president Ranil Wickremesinghe, facing corruption charges, is to be indicted in March after the investigation is completed, a court in Colombo was informed on Wednesday, PTI reports from Colombo.

Wickremesinghe, who made a court appearance, faces charges that he had misappropriated state funds to the tune of LKR 16.6 million for travelling to the UK in 2023 to attend the convocation of his wife Prof Maithri Wickremesinghe, at a British university. He was arrested in late August and granted bail two days later. During Wednesday's proceedings at the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court, the prosecution reported the progress of the case as on date and said that the former President, who would be 77 this year, would be charged in March upon completion of the investigation. Wickremesinghe has claimed the visit was part of his official functions as the president of Sri Lanka due to an official invitation and attended his wife's convocation while in transit on his return journey.

US House member Ilhan attacked

▸ A man sprayed an unknown substance at Democratic US Rep. Ilhan Omar and was tackled to the ground on Tuesday during a town hall meeting in Minneapolis, AP/PTI reports from Minneapolis.

The audience cheered as the man was pinned down and his arms were tied behind his back. In video of the incident, someone in the crowd can be heard saying, "Oh my god, he sprayed something on her." Moments earlier, Omar had called for the abolition of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and for Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to resign or face impeachment. Calls have mounted on Capitol Hill for Noem to step down following the shooting deaths in Minneapolis of two people protesting deportations.

Russia, India holding talks on joint production of Su-57: Official

MOSCOW, PTI: India and Russia are holding technical discussions to explore the possibility of the joint production of the 5th-generation Sukhoi Su-57E fighter jet in India, a top Russian aerospace official claimed on Wednesday.

There was no response from the Indian side. "Today, we are in the advanced stage of technical negotiations on this contract. Such contracts, given our experience, determine the trajectory of our cooperation for several decades to come," CEO of Russia's United Aircraft Corporation Vadim Badekha told Russian reporters on the sidelines of the Wings India air show at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad.

US slams EU over India trade deal

Treasury chief says Europe put commerce ahead of Ukraine war stance

WASHINGTON, AFP

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent voiced frustration on Wednesday over the European Union's trade ties with India, claiming the bloc backed away from Russia-related sanctions to secure the finalisation of a major deal with New Delhi.

The Europeans "should do what's best for themselves," Bessent told CNBC in a televised interview when asked to react to the EU-India deal agreed on Tuesday.

"But I will tell you... I find the Europeans very disappointing, because the Europeans are on the front line of the Ukraine-Russia war," he said.

India is buying sanctioned Russian oil, Bessent said, and "guess who was buying the refined products? The Europeans."

"So the Europeans have been funding the war against themselves," he added.

After US President Donald Trump hit India with additional tariffs in August over its purchases of Russian oil, Bessent said Europe was "unwilling to join us".

"And it turns out, because they wanted to do this trade deal," he said, referring to the agreement.

Decades in the making, the deal will see tariffs cut or eliminated on most European exports, along with a range of other provisions on both sides.

"So every time you hear a European talk about the importance of the Ukrainian people, remember that they put trade ahead of the Ukrainian people," Bessent said.

He also touched on other major economic issues in Asia, including trade tensions with South Korea and recent volatility in Japan's currency.

Texas halts new H-1B visa filings at public institutions

HOUSTON (US), PTI

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has ordered state agencies and public universities to immediately halt new H-1B visa petitions, tightening hiring rules at taxpayer-funded institutions in a move likely to impact Indian professionals.

The freeze will remain in effect through May 2027.

The directive, issued on Tuesday, said state agencies and public universities must stop filing new petitions unless they receive written approval from the Texas Workforce Commission. "In light of recent reports of abuse in the federal H-1B visa programme, I am directing all state agencies to freeze new H-1B visa petitions," Abbott said.

Indians account for 71% of all approved H-1B applications, according to official data. Tata Consultancy was the second-highest beneficiary with 5,505 approved H-1B visas in 2025, after Amazon, which had 10,044 workers on H-1B visas. Other leading beneficiaries include Microsoft (5,189), Meta (5,123), Apple (4,202), Google (4,181), Deloitte (2,353), Infosys (2,004), Wipro (1,523) and Tech Mahindra Americas (951).

US First Lady Melania Trump promotes an upcoming documentary film "Melania" at the New York Stock Exchange in New York City on Wednesday. REUTERS

Starmer takes 'China matters' message on first Beijing visit

LONDON, PTI: "Like it or not, China matters to the UK," is the message British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is taking on his visit to Beijing on Wednesday, accompanied by a 60-strong business and cultural delegation.

Downing Street said the visit, which will also include Shanghai, reflects the UK's "clear-eyed and realistic" approach to China, balancing opportunities and challenges by pursuing cooperation while "maintaining guardrails" on national security.

The Labour government is keen to highlight its re-engagement with China during the first prime ministerial visit in eight years, coming close on the heels of a ministerial green light for a controversial new mega embassy in London.

"For years, our approach to China has been dogged by inconsistency — blowing hot and cold, from Golden Age to Ice Age. But like it or not, China matters to the UK," Starmer said. "As one of the world's biggest economic players, a strategic and consistent relationship with China is firmly in our national interest. That does not mean turning a blind eye to the challenges they pose, but engaging even where we disagree.

"This is what our allies do, and what I will do: delivering for the public, putting more money in their pockets and keeping them safe through pragmatic, consistent cooperation abroad," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client, intends to enter into certain transaction in respect of immovable properties situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District, which is more particularly described in the **"Schedule"** hereunder and herein after referred to as the **"Schedule Properties"** with its present owner, who has represented to my client he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties having unrestricted right of alienation over the same. The owner has further represented to my client that Schedule Properties is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within **seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM No.1
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.295/1, an extent of 1 Acre 18 guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.295/2 **West by** : Land in Sy.No.187
North by : Land in Sy.No.187 **South by** : Land in Sy.No.295/4.

ITEM NO.2
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.295/4, an extent of 1 Acre 18 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.295/2, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.187
North by : Land in Sy.No.295/1, **South by** : Land in Sy.No.296.

ITEM No.3
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.284/2, an extent of 20 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.285, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.280
North by : Land in Sy.No.279, **South by** : Land in Sy.No.284/3.

ITEM No.4
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.298/4, an extent of 1 Acre 39 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Halla, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.298/3
North by : Land in Sy.Nos.298/1 & 298/2, **South by** : Halla.

ITEM No.5
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.287/2, 287/3, 287/4, 287/5, 287/6 and 287/7, totally measuring 3 Acres 13 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.Nos.288 and 289 **West by** : Land in Sy.Nos.279 and 286
North by : Land in Sy.No.483, **South by** : Land in Sy.Nos.292.

ITEM No.6:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.286/1, 286/3, 286/4, 286/5, 286/6, 286/7 and 286/8, totally measuring 4 Acres 32 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.Nos.287, 292, 293 & 294
West by : Land in Sy.Nos.284 & 285
North by : Land in Sy.Nos.285, 287 and 289,
South by : Land in Sy.Nos.187 and 294.

ITEM No.7: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.283/2, an extent of 17.08 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.187, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.282/2
North by : Land in Sy.No.283/1, **South by** : Land in Sy.No.283/3.

ITEM No.8:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.287/8, an extent of 1 Acre 26 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.288/7, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.279
North by : Govt Gomala, **South by** : Land belonging to H. Nagaraja.

ITEM No.9:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.282/7, an extent of 26 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.282/8, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.282/2
North by : Road, **South by** : Land in Sy.No.282/3.

ITEM No.10:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.282/8, an extent of 26 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on:-
East by : Land in Sy.No.283, **West by** : Land in Sy.No.282/7
North by : Road, **South by** : Land in Sy.No.282/3.

Place: Bengaluru SD/-
Date: 28/11/2025 Akhilesh SAdvocate
No.79, Sathyanarayana,H. B. C. S, 2nd Stage, 3rd Cross, Mahalakshmipuram Post,Bangalore - 560 086. Email:- akhileshsridhar1994@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Hilton BANGALORE EMBASSY GOLFLINKS | Hilton BENGALURU EMBASSY MANYATA BUSINESS PARK | Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park | Hilton BENGALURU EMBASSY TECH VILLAGE | Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Tech Village

Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks, Hilton & Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park, Hilton & Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Tech Village. Invites sealed tender bids from reliable and established vendors in Bengaluru on a rate contract basis for **12 Months** commencing from **1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027** to supply/provide services for the following categories:

Food & Beverage Supplies
1. Local Groceries, Whole Spices & Dry Fruits / Nuts
2. Imported Groceries, Bakery Products
3. Fresh Local Vegetables, Exotic Vegetables, Peeled Garlic, Bean Sprouts Micro greens, Peeled Shallots / Onions, Mushrooms and Grated Coconut
4. Frozen Vegetables (Green Peas, Sweet Corns & Frozen Cut Vegetables)
5. Fresh Fruits (Local and Imported)
6. Fresh Milk, Dairy Products and Local /Imported Cheeses
7. Fresh Noodles & Wonton sheet
8. Ice Cream & Kulfis
9. Sona Masoori & Basmati Rice
10. Catering Food Supplies (Chats & Savories), Indian Sweets & Snacks
11. Frozen Ready to Eat & Cook Products
12. Bread & Chapati
13. Local Lamb / Lamb Products & Fresh Tenderloin
14. Imported Meats & Seafood Products
15. Poultry (Chicken & Egg)
16. Fresh Fish & Seafood
17. Cold Cuts Local & Imported (Chicken & Pork)

Non-Food Supplies / Services
1. Printing & Office Stationery
2. Housekeeping, Laundry & Cleaning Supplies
3. LPG, Gel Fuel, T-Light Candles
4. Charcoal
5. Water Tanker
6. Fresh Flowers and Flower Designs
7. Hiring of AV Equipment, Banquet CCG/ Furniture, Kitchen Equipment / Utensil for ODC
8. Courier Services
9. Guest Supplies
10. Employee Transportation & Goods Transport Vehicle Providers
11. Facade, Glass Cleaning & Marble Polishing
12. Engineering Supplies (Electrical, Hardware, Plumbing, Painting & Rock Salt)
13. Wet & Dry Garbage Disposal
14. Outsourced Manpower / ODC Casuals (F&B Service, Culinary & Kitchen Stewarding)
15. Analytical Lab Test Service
16. Carpet Cleaning and Shampooing
17. Gas Burner & Hood Cleaning Service
18. Uniform
19. First Aid Medical Supplies

Tender forms and other particulars can be obtained on payment of Rs. 1500 (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred Only) incash/online (Non-Refundable) for each category and the same will be available with the **Cluster Purchase Manager at Hilton & Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park, Nagawara, Hebbal Outer Ring Road, Bangalore - 560045 between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm from 29th January to 10th February 2026 The last date for submitting tenders is 13th February 2026.**

The tenders are subject to following: 1. The rates finalized for the twelve months will not change under any circumstances. **2.** The rates must be inclusive of delivery charges until receiving Bay of the Hotel; tax should be shown separately on the invoices if applicable. 3. The Hotel reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without any reasons whatsoever and no representation shall be entertained on this account.

Sealed tenders must be addressed to the attention of: Cluster Purchase Manager, Hilton & Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park, Nagawara, Hebbal Outer Ring Road, Bangalore - 560 045, T: +91 80 6901 2345

Government of India
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

Invitation of applications for hiring of Data Analyst (Statistics) (Total three (03) posts) in Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) invites applications from eligible candidates as Data Analyst (Statistics) (Tolal three (03) posts) for attending work as per Terms of Reference (TOR). Candidate with requisite qualification and experience as prescribed would be hired in the respective category as per vacancy indicated. Vacancies are liable to be changed without any prior notice and without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2. The details including eligibility criteria, Terms of Reference (TOR) etc. are available in vacancy notice published on the AERA's website: www.aera.gov.in Last date of receipt of application is **18.02.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.** Applications to be submitted as per details/mode mentioned in the vacancy notice. Applications received after due date and time will not be entertained.

Deputy Chief
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, 3rd1 Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003

CBC 03112-12-0017-2526

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. Tender No.: **SUR/TD/T/2025/29R1; Name of Work:** Electrification of Unwired pit lines/sidings of Solapur Division. (Re-invitation); **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,53,83,701.79 **Bid Security:** Rs. 2,26,900/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months; **Validity of offer:** 60 Days; **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 20.02.2026 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), DE/Sur-01 Central Railway, Solapur

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/167/2025 Dated: 08-12-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer(s) for providing project management services for **Project-1:** Construction of new Broad Gauge line between Mid section (km:5.72) and Kuppam (incl.) (km:23.869) under Marikuppam- Kuppam new line project (23.7km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical general services (EPC) and for **Project-2:** Construction of a New Broad Gauge Railway line between Maluguru (chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of YNK-PKD)) to Palasamudram (chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and existing Maluguru yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical general service works (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No. : PMS-MLU-PALA-MKM - KPN)**	Rs. 10,29,54,466/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
27-01-2026 (15:00 Hrs)	**11-02-2026 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/843/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Government of Jharkhand, Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail- jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Ref. No: - A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025/62 /Ranchi, Date:- 27/ 01/ 2026

Corrigendum-01

e-Global Tender issued through EoI Ref No- A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025/43, dated:20.01.2026 for purchase of Brand-New Two-Seater Trainee Aircraft in 1st Phase, Initially 04 aircraft for training purpose. The JFI plan is to purchase 15 aircrafts in different phases subject to the requirement of JFI in different schedule (P.R. No-371204) for Jharkhand Flying Institute. Some changes were made during the Pre Bid Meeting held on 27.01.2026 to the RFP Documents. Please visit www. jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Other Terms & Conditions of NIT & e-Global Tender will remain the same.
This Corrigendum is also available on the website www. jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Capt. S.P. Sinha
Managing Director cum Director Ops
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 371860 Civil Aviation (25-26)_D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Bid Number:No:SBC-MECH-CW-ROH-2-25 Dated: 16-01-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division Outsourcing of ROH activities at Satellite Goods Terminal Wagon Depot of Bengaluru Division for a period of two years on outcome basis.	Rs. 2,71,40,471.58

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 16:00 Hrs. on 06-02-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
PUB/842/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Industrial output growth rises to 2-year high of 7.8% in Dec

GST rationalisation boosts consumption-related mfg

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's industrial production growth accelerated to an over two-year high of 7.8% in December, driven by robust consumption demands, as per official data on Wednesday.

Manufacturing sector growth accelerated to 8.1%, while electricity and mining posted 6.3% and 6.8% growth, respectively, on a year-on-year basis.

The factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 7.2% in November. In December 2024, the IIP growth stood at 3.7%, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation showed. The December 2025 expansion was the best in 26 months.

Manufacturing growth was led by a boost in domestic consumption. However, export-oriented sectors posted subdued performance.

"Within manufacturing, GST rationalisation benefited sectors such as food products and automobiles, but export-oriented sectors such as apparel, textiles saw IIP growth moderate," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil.

All six used-based sectors continued to remain in expansion for the second successive month in December 2025. More importantly, the consumer non-durables sector grew 8.3%, the highest in the last 26 months.

"High consumer non-durable growth post festive season (at a 13-month high) suggests: the inventories both with wholesaler and manufacturer have exhausted and according to the manufacturer's assessment, the demand is likely to continue," said Paras Jasrai, Associate Director, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

"These numbers have given some anecdotal evidence that the GST rationalisation has pushed demand in the economy. This coupled with low inflation would continue to push demand," Jasrai added.

Capital goods and infrastructure sectors posted 8.1% and 12.1% growth, respectively. This indicates that investment demands have also remained steady.

On a quarterly basis, the factory output touched a six-quarter high of 5.2% year-on-year during the October-December 2025 period.

"Going forward, while domestic tailwinds should support demand in consumer segments for a few more quarters, the adverse impact of higher US tariffs on export segments could get more pronounced," said Deshpande.

However, a trade deal with the US, reducing the tariff to closer to levels faced by peers, could help matters, she added.

On the GDP growth, Deshpande said it is likely to moderate to 6.7% in 2026-27, from the National Statistics Office estimate of 7.4% in the current fiscal.

"We have to be watchful of the revival witnessed in the IIP growth, and monitor it for a couple of quarters to term it as industrial recovery. The factor output growth has been observed to grow in excess of 5% for a couple of quarters, before fizzling out. The new IIP with a base year of 2022-23 will portray a correct picture of industrial production," said Jasrai.

With a high base effect in January 2025, Ind-Ra expects the IIP growth to moderate to around 5% in January 2026.

Maruti Suzuki Q3 net up 4% at Rs 3,879 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI

Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday posted 4% increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,879 crore for the December quarter FY26, hit by one-time provision of Rs 594 crore on account of the new labour codes.

The country's largest carmaker reported a net profit of Rs 3,727 crore for the October-December period last fiscal.

Total revenue from operations rose to Rs 49,904 crore in the third quarter from Rs 38,764 crore in the year-ago period, the company said.

Owing to the GST reform, there was a sharp recovery in the Indian car market, primarily led by the small car segment, it noted.

The company said it achieved its highest-ever quarterly domestic sales of 5,64,669 units, as compared to 4,66,993 units in Q3 the previous year, an increase of 97,676 units.

The company clocked record total sales of 6,67,769 units, including exports of 1,03,100 units, the automaker stated.

In the same period last year, the total sales were at 5,66,213 units, comprising domestic sales of 4,66,993 units and exports of 99,220 units. On a standalone basis, the company registered its highest-ever quarterly net sales of Rs 47,534 crore, up from Rs 36,802 crore in the same period a year ago.

The net profit for the quarter on a standalone basis stood at Rs 3,794 crore compared to Rs 3,659 crore Q3 of FY2024-25, it said.

TVS Motor Q3 profit up 46.26%

NEW DELHI, PTI: TVS Motor Company Ltd on Wednesday reported a 46.26% jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 891.26 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025, riding on robust sales.

In a regulatory filing, TVS had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 609.35 crore in the same period last fiscal. It also reported consolidated revenue from operations in Q3 at Rs 14,755.52 crore, against Rs 11,034.88 crore a year ago. Overall sales grew 27% in the third quarter.

Amazon to cut 16,000 jobs globally

India impact will be known only in coming days

BENGALURU, DHNS

E-commerce giant Amazon on Wednesday announced that it will cut 16,000 roles globally. This is the second round of layoffs that the company announced following its 14,000 job reduction in October last year. Amazon has been working to strengthen its organisation by reducing layers, "increasing ownership, and removing bureaucracy". This reduction will impact employees in India, and the exact numbers will be known only in the coming days.

According to sources, job reduction in India might be less compared to other countries. Last year, the company cut 800 jobs in India. Amazon has been reducing its workforce for more than two years now. The company employs about 1,30,000 people in India, and in early 2023, it had fired over 1,000 employees in the country.

Beth Galetti, Senior Vice-President of People Experience and Technology at Amazon, said, "The reductions we are making today will impact approximately 16,000 roles across Amazon, and we're again working hard to support everyone whose role is impacted. That starts with offering most US-based employees 90 days to look for a new role internally (timing will vary internationally based on local and country-level requirements). Then, for teammates who are unable to find a new role at Amazon or who choose not to look for one, we'll provide transition support including severance pay, outplacement services, health insurance benefits (as applicable), and more."

Though the company is reducing its workforce, it will also continue hiring and investing in strategic areas and functions. "We're still in the early stages of building every one of our businesses and there's a significant opportunity ahead. Some of you might ask if this is the beginning of a new rhythm – where we announce broad reductions every few months. That's not our plan. But just as we always have, every team will continue to evaluate the ownership, speed, and capacity to invent for customers, and make adjustments as appropriate. That's never been more important than it is today in a world that's changing faster than ever," she added in a statement.

India has taken AI beyond the hype, says Nilekani

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India has taken AI beyond the hype and hand-waving, to actually making things on the ground, said Nandan Nilekani, Co-founder and Chairperson of EkStep Foundation.

Speaking at an event here on Wednesday, organised by EkStep on 'Voice AI—Making the Best Work for India', Nilekani said the final frontier of access is voice. "If a person can talk to the computer and receive instructions or information or get an agent to work, that's the final concept, and even more so in a country which has so many different languages and dialects," the co-founder of Infosys said.

The event saw many startups showcasing their Indic-language voice AI deployments. Nilekani said there is a race in AI, a race to the bottom and a race to the top. Race to the bottom includes many AI-generated contents, including pornography, and others that affect people's mental health.

"Race to the top is how do we use AI to improve people's lives? We want to make that race to the top happen, because that will actually help the AI community live up to the expectations that are being set," he said, stressing that one can excel in building intelligence at a population scale, especially in voice AI.

Nandan Nilekani at the event in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Speaking to Nilekani in a fireside chat, Vishal Dhupar, MD of South Asia, NVIDIA, said that with the work that is being done in the country, we are going to become the capital of intelligence.

With people coming here and taking advantage of the talent, Dhupar said he sees a 3X kind of an opportunity for India in the next 3-4 years.

Many startups are now focusing on voice AI. With many dialects and languages in India, voice AI provides multilingual support across vertical, be it health, railways or HR-related functions.

IN BRIEF

Sensex up 487 pts on trade cues

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second straight session on Wednesday, propelled by buying in industrial, energy and metal stocks amid renewed optimism on the global trade front following the landmark India-EU FTA.

Besides, gains in Bharat Electronics, Reliance Industries and Eternal stocks also supported equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 487.20 points, or 0.60%, to settle at 82,344.68. During the day, it soared 646.49 points or 0.78% to 82,503.97.

A total of 2,920 stocks advanced while 1,315 declined and 138 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 167.35 points or 0.66% to end at 25,342.75.

Rupee tanks 31 paise against USD

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 31 paise to settle at 91.99 against the US dollar on Wednesday, touching the lowest closing level for the second time in less than a week, amid month-end demand for the greenback.

Forex traders said the rupee opened higher as the dollar index softened and a long-awaited trade breakthrough with Europe offered quiet reassurance. However, increased month-end demand for the dollar as well as geopolitical tensions dented investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 91.60 and touched an early high of 91.50, but pared all gains to touch an intra-day low of 91.99. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07% lower at 96.14.

Gold storms to Rs 1.71 lakh/10g

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold and silver prices showed no signs of cooling as both precious metals scaled fresh records in the national capital on Wednesday amid a weak US dollar and strong buying trends in global markets.

According to the marketmen, silver extended its gains for the third straight day by soaring Rs 15,000, or 4.05%, to touch an all-time high of Rs 3,85,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes).

In the previous session, the white metal jumped sharply by Rs 40,500 to Rs 3,70,000 per kg, from Friday's close of Rs 3,29,500 per kg.

Gold of 99.9% purity also climbed by Rs 5,000, or 3%, to a fresh peak of Rs 1,71,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) in the bullion markets.

It settled at Rs 1,66,000 per 10 grams on Tuesday, according to traders.

Funding programme for startups

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Government has launched ELEVATE NxT, a flagship DeepTech startup support programme under the LEAP (Local Economy Accelerator Programme). With an earmarked corpus of Rs 150 crore, the government has invited DeepTech startups from across the country to apply for grant-in-aid support of up to Rs 1 crore per startup, along with milestone-based funding, sector-aligned mentorship, and structured ecosystem support. Applications are open until February 17 and can be submitted through the portal: https://www.missionstartupkarnataka.org/elevate-karnataka?en.

The programme is open to startups across India, enabling innovators to leverage Karnataka's robust innovation ecosystem.

HDFC Capital, Curated Living partner

BENGALURU, DHNS: HDFC Capital Advisors Limited, the real estate private equity arm of the HDFC Group, has entered a strategic partnership with Curated Living Solutions (CLS), to establish a Rs 1,000 crore rental housing platform, it said in a statement.

The platform will focus on the development, ownership, and operation of institutional-grade rental housing assets to meet the growing demand for professionally managed rental accommodation across major urban centres. The partnership seeks to leverage long-term demographic and urbanization trends, including workforce and student mobility and evolving lifestyle preferences.

CLS currently manages over 13,000 beds across India.

BEL posts 20.8% rise in Q3 profit

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), on Wednesday, reported 20.8% net profit at Rs 1,590 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025. Its revenue from operations stood at Rs 7,122 crore, a growth of 23.73% over Rs 5,756 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter last year.

The company's order book stood at Rs 73,015 crore as on January 1, 2026.

During the nine months of the current fiscal, BEL reported a revenue of Rs 17,302.46 crore as against Rs 14,538.30 crore recorded in the same period last fiscal.

Profit before tax during the third quarter of FY26 stood at Rs 2,147.68 crore, showing a growth of 22.43% over Rs 1,754.15 crore recorded in the same quarter last year.

DH DECIPHERS

India-EU FTA: Deciphering processes and its impact on consumers, economy

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been hailed by the top leadership of the two sides as the "mother of all deals". It seeks to eliminate or reduce tariffs on almost all goods. The deal also seeks to boost shipments by reducing non-tariff barriers. However, it will take several months for the deal to come into force. In this issue of DH Deciphers, **Gyanendra Keshri** *decodes the India-EU free trade deal and its impact on different sectors.*

What does the conclusion of negotiations mean?
India and the European Union (EU) launched negotiations for a free trade deal in 2007. It was named Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA). After 16 rounds of negotiations, the EU withdrew from the talks in 2013. In 2016, the two sides showed interest to reinitiate negotiations, which were formally relaunched in June 2022. It was renamed 'Free Trade Agreement'. After another 14 rounds of negotiations, the two sides formally announced the conclusion of the deal. At the 16th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on January 27, 2026, the two sides signed a procedural document marking the conclusion of negotiations.

What are the processes that follow?
The procedural document signed, will undergo "legal scrubbing", which means detailed technical and legal review of the document. On the EU side, the draft text will have to be translated into all official EU languages and shared with the member countries. The European Commission will then put forward its proposal to the European Council for the signature and conclusion of the agreement. Once adopted by the Council, the EU and India can sign the agreements. Following the signature, the agreement requires the European Parliament's consent, and the Council's decision on conclusion for it to enter into force. Once India also ratifies the agreement, it can enter into force.

How much time will it take to complete these processes?
No official timeframe has been given for completion of the processes. However, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has expressed hope that they would be completed in the 2026 calendar year.

What is the deal with the services sector?
India and the EU have fast-growing services trade. Trade in services between the two sides stood at over $71 billion in 2024. The trade balance was in favour of India. During 2024, India's services exports to the EU nations stood at 33.8 billion euros ($40.44 billion), while imports stood at 26 billion euros ($31.1 billion). The two sides have agreed to further boost services across all sectors. While India enjoys a comparative advantage in sectors like IT/ITeS, professional services, education, and other business services, EU member countries have strongholds in financial services and maritime services. The agreement will grant EU companies privileged access to the Indian services market, including key sectors such as financial services and maritime services. It has the most ambitious commitments on financial services by India in any trade agreement, going beyond what they have given to other partners. In the FTA deal, the two sides have agreed to introduce services rules grounded on the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

What is the deal on cars?
Auto has been among the most contentious issues in the India-EU trade negotiations. As per the deal, India has agreed to gradually lower tariffs on cars imported from EU nations to 10%, from the existing 110%. However, this will be done in a phased manner. There will also be a quota on the number of vehicles imported in a year. According to official sources, only premium cars priced above Rs 25 lakh would be imported in India.

What does the deal mean for common people?
The two sides have agreed to eliminate or reduce tariffs on most of the goods. This means that the goods imported from EU member countries to India will become cheaper for consumers. For example, tariff on olive oil is proposed to be cut to 0%, from the current 45%. Once the deal comes into effect, the price of olive oil may come down by 45% in India. Tariff on wines is proposed to be lowered from 150% to 20% in a phased manner. Tariffs on cars, machinery, auto parts, confectionery and other items are also proposed to be reduced significantly. This will lead to significant reduction in prices of these items in the Indian market. Similarly, the EU has agreed to cut tariffs on almost all goods imported from India. This will benefit consumers in the EU member countries.

The new Renault Duster at its launch in Chennai. PTI

Renault India bets high on new Duster

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Renault India is betting big on the launch of the all-new Duster, which helped the company establish the brand in 2012, to increase its market share from less than 1% in FY2026-27. The company, which bought the entire Renault-Nissan plant in Oragadam last year, hopes to enhance operational capacity from the current 48% to 70% by next fiscal.

Renault India MD M Venkatram said the India-EU FTA will help "exponentially increase" export of cars and components from India to the EU, to offset effects from the other side of the West.

On the launch of the new Duster, the mid-size SUV which created waves before it was discontinued a few years ago, Venkatram said the company decided to capitalise on the nostalgia since two generations have fond memories of the vehicle.

On its India market share being under 1%, he said Renault hopes to increase it by "at least three-folds" with the launch of the new Duster and the new Duster hybrid, which will hit the market later this year.

India, South Asia will need 3,300 new planes by 2044: Boeing

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Ashwin Naidu

US aerospace giant Boeing has projected that the passenger air traffic for India and South Asia will rise an average 7% annually, over the next 20 years, spurred by a growing middle-class, economic growth and airport and connectivity investments. The demand for air travel means that airlines will need nearly 3,300 new aircraft by 2044, as projected in the company's Commercial Market Outlook (CMO) for South Asia, unveiled on the sidelines of Wings India 2026 on Wednesday.

Single-aisle jets will account for nearly 90% of these projected deliveries, as airlines look to boost network flexibility on fast-growing short and medium-haul routes. Accounting for growth and replacement, the Indian and South Asian region's fleet will grow from 795 to 2,925 planes in two decades. Domestic travel will underpin this expansion, supported by a continuing shift from rail to air, and investments in the country's airport infrastructure.

"As air travel becomes more integral to how people and goods move in India and South Asia, airlines will strengthen networks, scale fleets and invest in services and technical personnel to support long-term growth," said Ashwin Naidu, Boeing Managing Director of Commercial Marketing, Eurasia and Indian Subcontinent.

To support the expected fleet growth, investment in South Asian industry will require over $195 billion in aviation services, including maintenance, repair and modifications, digital services and training.

Bengaluru's ancient footprints

Missing stone menhirs at Managondanahalli near Bengaluru.

Amullya Shivashankar traces the city's historical temples, hero stones and burial markers that stand as enduring links to the city's origins, yet struggling to survive

Long before Bengaluru became a city of flyovers and expanding neighbourhoods, early dynasties such as the Western Gangas shaped its landscape. Scattered across the city, archaeological remnants — from temples, idols, tanks and inscriptions to burial markers and megalithic structures — offer rare glimpses into centuries of cultural, religious and social life. Even as these sites endure rapid urbanisation, many remain neglected despite falling under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or the State Archaeology Department.

The Panchalingeshwara Temple complex at Begur on the Bengaluru-Hosur highway is a temple built during the 9th and 10th century by the Western Ganga dynasty. The Western Gangas had built the shrines of two important deities Nageshwara and Nagareshwara and in the 11th century, the Cholas added three more shrines of Choleshwara, Kali and Kanteshwara. The five shrines showcase early Dravidian architecture style such as the pyramid-shaped tower over the main *garbhagriha* or the sanctum and multi-layered tower called the *gopurams*.

The temple drew wider attention over years after an inscription found here was identified as one of the earliest references to Bengaluru, described as '*Bengaluru Kalaga*' in the 9th century. While the State Archaeology Department has undertaken some repairs, heritage experts say the efforts at conservation and research into the significance of the remains have fallen far short of what is required.

Misinterpreting history, an idol of goddess Durga that was once located in the bed of Begur Lake has now been placed in a water trough within the temple complex, reportedly under the mistaken assumption that it represents Ganga Devi.

Along with this, broken and damaged *veeragallus* (hero stones) of the temple lie neglected amid garbage, construction waste and debris while several inscriptions remain exposed, inaccessible and without protective covers or interpretive signage.

Shashidhara H G, a historian of architecture and heritage, said placing idols of goddesses near water bodies was common during the Ganga period. "This idol of Durga was discovered when Begur lake was redeveloped but was placed in front of the temple in a water trough considering it to be Ganga. Similarly, a Durga idol was found near Hebbal lake as well," he said.

According to temple authorities, there are plans to construct a separate shrine for the idol on the riverbank. "But there is no clarity on what the authorities intend to do," Shashidhara added.

Episodes of Lord Krishna's childhood carved on the walls of the Nallur temple.

The Nallur Chennakeshava Temple in Devanahalli.

Historically important structures lie in a neglected state at a temple in Begur near Bengaluru. An idol of goddess Durga, found at the temple, misinterpreted as the Ganga devi idol.

Nallur temple

Hidden within a 600-year-old tamarind grove — India's first designated biodiversity heritage site — the Nalluru Chennakeshava Temple stands in advanced decay. Located about 10 kilometres from Kempegowda International Airport, the temple, built with red-tinted stone before the 15th century, has been overtaken by vegetation, with tree roots splitting walls and dislodging stone blocks. Most of the temple's idols have disappeared. Despite all the odds the temple has gone through, one wall still preserves detailed sculptural panels depicting episodes from Lord Krishna's childhood. "Even after repeated attempts, no restoration proposal has moved forward," said an archaeology expert who wished to remain anonymous.

Treasure hunting has further compounded the damage. "People dug up the site believing there was hidden treasure. The roof has collapsed and one of the side walls has given way. Treasure hunting has led to severe structural damage— a pillar with inscriptions in front of the temple was broken into three pieces and discarded. The temple remains unprotected, with neither the State Archaeology Department nor the Archaeological Survey of India including it in their list of protected monuments.

"We are planning to clean the temple premises with the help of NSS volunteers. We are also looking for individuals or organisations willing to adopt the temple through Corporate Social Responsibility or philanthropic support," said Kavyashree, Deputy Director, State Archaeology Department, Bengaluru Division. She added that financial constraints continue to restrict the department's capacity. "Managing existing protected monuments itself is a challenge. Adding new ones is not feasible at the moment."

Megalithic tombs

Discovered by the ASI in 1916–17, the megalithic burial site at Managondanahalli in Devanahalli taluk dates back nearly 3,000 years to the Iron Age. The 125-acre site once featured stone circles, cists and granite menhirs. "This site has burials with stone slabs placed above and below the body along with objects used by the deceased, such as stone pots, as was the practice during the stone age," said Shashidhara. "Treasure hunters destroyed the site believing valuables were buried there."

Over 40 menhirs were recorded during the ASI survey held in 1916-17. None remain today. Though officially protected by the ASI, the site has lost most of its menhirs and stone pillars, while the remaining structures are badly damaged. A stone quarry operating nearby has further threatened the heritage site. Despite being under ASI control, the area lacks security personnel, fencing or even basic signboards.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), in 2025, proposed setting up of a heritage cell to safeguard heritage sites within city limits. However, implementation remains pending. "We are yet to begin work on the cell unit, but it will be done soon," said GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

Separately, the state Muzrai Department has announced plans for a heritage conservation initiative focused on temples in Karnataka. Minister for Transport and Muzrai, Ramalinga Reddy, said a vision group has been formed and they are looking to collaborate with CSR and philanthropic funding to support heritage conservation.

Rooted in nature, crafted by youth

Eco-friendly ceremonial stages, which blend tradition and sustainability, are regaining popularity in the Malnad region, writes G M Bomnalli

Green *mantapa* — ceremonial stages made from banana stems, mango leaves, creepers and other naturally available materials — are making a comeback in the Malnad region. Once a common feature in village weddings, these eco-friendly *mantapas* are now being embraced by a new generation of young artisans, who are learning the craft and bringing it back to celebrations in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts.

In Shirumane and Salekoppe villages of Sagara taluk in Shivamogga district, a group of young farmers has taken the lead in reviving this tradition. Using materials sourced from their farms and simple tools, they create wedding *mantapas* and stages that are simple and striking.

During the wedding season, demand for their work rises sharply. They gather materials in the afternoon and begin crafting the *mantapas* by evening. Depending on the design, each *mantapa* takes at least six to seven hours of focused, hands-on work to complete for a group of five to six people. A *mantapa* costs between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000.

While the work brings some extra income, passion drives their craft as much as money. Communities value their skill and pay fairly, giving the young artisans both recognition and reward. "We never insist on a fixed price. People now appreciate the work and pay appropriately," says Madhu, one of the artisans from Shirumane.

The seven-member team has already built hundreds of *mantapas* across Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, and even Kerala, according to Madhu, and Mahabaleshwar from Salekoppe.

Similarly, in Agasala Bommnalli near Sirsi in Uttara Kannada, members of a local youth group have been making green *mantapas* for years. Senior members guide younger artisans, ensuring the tradition continues. They also craft a unique *mantapa* using ragi seeds. A few days before the wedding, they sow the seeds on pieces of gunny bags. Once the seeds sprout, the bags develop a lush, grass-like green layer, which the artisans then use to create the *mantapa*, adding a fresh, living element to the decor.

In Jaddimane village, farmer Sridhar Hegde uses banana stems, areca nuts and mango leaves to craft a variety of *mantapas* and ceremonial stages. "A few years ago, *mantapa* were often decorated using paper cuttings and thermocol, but today, many with environmental concerns prefer natural *mantapas*," he says.

Many people working in cities like Hubballi and Bengaluru prefer to hold weddings in their hometowns in the Malnad region, often choosing these green *mantapas* over artificial alternatives.

Artisans working on a traditional mantapa made of natural materials. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Inspired by these weddings in rural areas, many urbanites have also begun enquiring about these green *mantapas*, say artisans. However, replicating them in urban areas remains challenging, as raw materials are scarce and the greenery typically stays fresh for only a day or two. This makes the craft largely tied to rural spaces, where farms provide both the materials and the environment to create these living stages.

For these young artisans, making green *mantapas* is more than decoration. It is a way to preserve tradition, nurture creativity, support a livelihood and celebrate occasions in harmony with nature — keeping the spirit of Malnad villages alive in every wedding. Their work reminds that sustainable, rooted practices can still bring beauty and meaning to celebrations.

A mantapa made of arecanuts.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Beyond the pool: Triumphs against odds

In Belagavi, a swimming coach is turning physical challenges into victories for children with disabilities, writes Divyashri Mudakavi

In 2009, 11-year-old Moin Junnedi faced rejection from several schools in Belagavi. His brittle bone disease meant that even a minor fall could have serious consequences, making most institutions hesitant to admit him. Hoping to secure his education, Moin and his mother went to meet the Karnataka chief minister, who was scheduled to inaugurate a programme at a swimming pool. However, by the time they arrived, the chief minister had left. Instead, they encountered a swimming coach who would go on to change the course of Moin's life.

Umesh Kalghatgi, who specialised in coaching physically challenged children, recognised Moin's interest in swimming and began training him with great care. Within just three weeks of rigorous practice, one-and-a-half-feet-tall Moin, who has a twisted and deformed body, was swimming independently. He went on to win two medals at the National Paralympics 2010 and, a few years later, earned the sobriquet "the Wonder Boy of India." Today, at 28, Moin has won multiple national and international medals, and is a BCom graduate.

Moin is not alone. Raghavendra Anvekar with polio-affected legs was struggling to make ends meet in Belagavi. Living in a cramped room with his family and working odd jobs, Raghavendra's prospects seemed limited. But in 2000, he joined the swimming camp for special children. Today, Raghavendra boasts 117 medals, including a bronze at the Asian Para Games, and has secured employment.

In the last 25 years, Umesh Kalghatgi and his team under the banner of Swimmers' Club Belgaum and Aquarius Swim Club of Belagavi have offered free coaching to hundreds of children with physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities, and helped them lead a dignified life. Among his students, Atish Jadhav has won three international and 16 national medals; Rajesh Shinde has successfully crossed the English Channel; Shridhar Malagi has bagged 26 international medals and 57 national medals, and Umesh Khade has earned 55 national medals. Many have even got jobs under sports quota.

Umesh's journey began in 1987 as a swimming coach. His volunteer work with an association for the welfare of the differently abled in Belagavi inspired him to take a more hands-on approach. In 2001, he was approached by a group of special children, prompting him to train his first batch of six students, including Raghavendra Anvekar.

Eventually, Umesh and the club began conducting a three-week basic training camp for special children every February. Since then, around 300 children—mainly from Belagavi district—participate in the camp every year. Over the past two decades, the team of 25 trainers, including those with disabilities, has coached more than 6,000 children under Umesh's guidance.

"We start with the basic camp and then train talented and committed kids throughout the year," Umesh explains.

Every special child being trained by the team receives nutritious food supplements like fruits and nuts, free swimming gear, transportation and health support — all funded through philanthropy programmes.

"Swimming has instilled courage and confidence in our children," says Anita Gawade, headmistress of the Maheshwari School for the Blind. "In the last two decades, at least 250 of our students have been trained in swimming. Many have won national medals."

Training these children, however, comes with unique challenges. "Every child is different. Like parents, we first build trust. Once they feel secure, they learn swimming within weeks. Coaches are trained to handle the diverse needs of students," Umesh says. "When needed, we consult doctors to ensure children's fitness and instill confidence in parents too," he adds.

Raghavendra, now a coach himself, emphasises the adaptive nature of training. "Swimming requires limb coordination and breath control. As I don't have power in my legs, I teach through hand gestures and verbal guidance," he says.

The significance of Umesh and his team's work extends beyond medals. "Many organisations train talented swimmers, but nurturing them from the basics is crucial," notes S R Sindhia, secretary of the Paralympic Swimming Association of Karnataka. "Belagavi's paralympic swimmers, especially visually impaired athletes, form a major part of the state team and make Karnataka proud every year."

Camp for special kids

Two decades after starting his first batch, the camp led by Umesh continues to grow. This February, the club will be conducting its 24th batch. The club's approach combines technique, safety and discipline. They collaborate with schools, community groups and organisations to ensure children from all backgrounds have access to structured training. "Umesh and his team have carved out a space for inclusion, opportunity and empowerment. Through his coaching, hundreds of children have discovered their potential and celebrated achievements they once thought impossible," says Avinash Potdar, a sportsperson and entrepreneur.

For the club and Umesh, the journey is ongoing. Each kick, stroke and medal is a testament to the power of sports in creating an inclusive and compassionate society.

Swimming coach Umesh Kalghatgi instructs a physically challenged boy; A child learns swimming. PHOTOS BY VINAYAK AMBEWADIKAR

Karnataka, Kerala match ends in a draw

BENGALURU, DHNS: Despite a competitive overall outing in the first innings, Karnataka had to be content with a draw against Kerala in the under-14 Boys South Zone cricket tournament at the MVGR Engineering College grounds in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday.

After Prabhav Pydah's 110-ball 98, Aaryan Nagesh (76 n.o), Samarth Suresh (56) and Pavandeep R Bharadakane (54) scored half-centuries to power Karnataka to 418/8 in 82.5 overs before the team declared their innings. Later, Krishna Kumar (4/28) and Ashith Sanjay Girish (3/8) got into the act to bowl out Kerala for 134 in 57.3 overs.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 418/8 decl in 82.5 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 54, Samarth Suresh 56, Prabhav Pydah 98, Akhieera Allan 45, Hannan Zaki Ahmed 33, Aaryan Nagesh 76 n.o., Athreya Bhat 31; Nairmal L Rahul 2-81, Vyshnav S 2-77) drew with Kerala: 134 all out in 57.3 overs (Daksh Siva 29, Arjun V Nair 42; Ashith Sanjay Girish 3-8, Krishna Kumar 4-28, Neeraj M 2-21) and 166/3 in 39 overs (Daksh Siva 91 n.o., Arjun V Nair 36).

Kangulkar's late strike in SIFC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aman Kangulkar's late goal helped South India FC score a thrilling 3-2 win over Bangalore Warriors FC during their BDFA Division A game here on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Division B: Group A: South India FC: 3 (ThanggoumangGuite 32nd, Benedict Harrison 57th, Aman Kangulkar 80th+3rd) bt Bangalore Warriors FC: 2 (D Akash 25th, Sham Jose 55th); Mysore Vijayanagar FC: 4 (Gagan R Patil 2nd, Sharath Singh 13th, Jishnu H Dass 21st, Junaid MM 23rd) bt AL Fateh: 1 (Zaib Sherief 70th).

Group B: Juno FC: 4 (Satwik Sreedharan 21st, Harsh 24th, Ummarul Farookka 64th, Laishram Digku Singh 75th) bt Bangalore Gunners FC: 0.

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Tennis gods smile on Djoker

Serbian in semis after Musetti retires; Sinner, Pegula win

MELBOURNE, AFP

Novak Djokovic admitted he got lucky after opponent Lorenzo Musetti retired hurt on Wednesday to send the Serbian great into his 13th Australian Open semifinal and a showdown with reigning champion Jannik Sinner.

Earlier on day 11 in Melbourne, Jessica Pegula and Elena Rybakina both won in straight sets and will meet for a place in the final.

The 38-year-old Djokovic, chasing an all-time record 25th Grand Slam crown, has the tennis gods smiling on him.

His last-16 opponent Jakub Mensik pulled out without a ball being hit and Musetti was forced to retire with the Italian leading 6-4, 6-3, 1-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

The fifth-seeded Musetti was well on top when he needed treatment on his upper right leg, and with his movement badly impeded, was forced to reluctantly throw in the towel.

"I feel really sorry for him, he was the far better player, I was on my way home tonight," said Djokovic, who had been uncharacteristically error strewn and staring down the barrel.

"It has happened to me a few times. He was in full control.

"So unfortunate, I don't what else to say.

"He should have been the winner today no doubt. I am extremely lucky to get through this one today."

Djokovic has been trying to move past Margaret Court and clinch the landmark 25 since his last major title at the US Open in 2023.

It has proved increasingly difficult with the emergence of Sinner and world number one Carlos Alcaraz.

Djokovic, who needed treatment during the match for a gruesome blister, added: "I am going to double my prayers and gratitude tonight to God for giving me this opportunity again."

Italian second seed Sinner was sublime in sweeping past big-serving American eighth seed Shelton 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

He holds a 6-4 win-loss record over Djokovic and has won their last five encounters.

Alcaraz plays third seed Alexander Zverev in the other semifinal.

Rybakina beats Swiatek

Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, stunned second seed Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-1 to book her spot in the last four.

Pegula swept aside Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) in an all-American affair.

Two-time champion Aryna Sabalenka takes on Ukrainian 12th seed Elina Svitolina in the other semifinal.

Rybakina has made the Melbourne final once before, in 2023 when she lost in three tough sets to Sabalenka.

The 26-year-old fifth seed took her latest victory in her stride, saying a calmer mindset helped in the heat of battle.

Results (quarterfinals, prefix denotes seeding): Singles: Men: 4-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 5-Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) 4-6, 3-6, 3-1 retd; 2-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt 8-Ben Shelton (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Women: 6-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt 4-Amanda Anisimova (USA) 6-2, 7-6 (1); 5-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt 2-Iga Swiatek (Pol) 7-5, 6-1.

SEMIS LINE-UP

- **Men's singles:** Carlos Alcaraz vs Alexander Zverev; Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner
- **Women's singles:** Aryna Sabalenka vs Elina Svitolina; Elena Rybakina vs Jessica Pegula

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina celebrates her quarterfinal win over Poland's Iga Swiatek at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. REUTERS

Calls for more privacy after Gauff incident

Coco Gauff called herself "a real person with real feelings" on Wednesday as fellow players backed a call for more privacy during tournaments, with Iga Swiatek saying they felt like "animals in the zoo" and Serena Williams defending her, reports AFP

Third seed Gauff was upset when cameras caught her smashing her racquet in the depths of the stadium on Tuesday after she was beaten in the Australian Open quarterfinals.

The American was trying to find somewhere private to let out her frustrations and said she did not want to do so in front of fans including children.

Coco Gauff

"I tried to go somewhere where they wouldn't broadcast it, but obviously they did," Gauff said soon after.

"So maybe some conversations can be had because I feel like at this tournament the only private place we have is the locker room."

A day after footage of her actions went viral online, Gauff posted on X: "I'm a real person with real feelings. I care a lot & I'm trying my best. Thank you to those who understand that."

United States great Williams came to her defence, writing on X: "Passion. Caring. Matters. Nothing wrong with hating to lose."

Swiatek said back-stage cameras could be too intrusive.

"The question is, are we tennis players, or are we animals in the zoo where they are observed even when they poop, you know?," the world number two said.

Kiran, Mithun post contrasting wins

Anmol beats Happy as Tasmim loses at Thailand Masters

BANGKOK, PTI

India's Kiran George and Mithun Manjunath advanced to the second round of the men's singles with contrasting wins over their respective rivals at the Thailand Masters Super 300 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Seeded seventh, George took just 27 minutes to get the better of world no. 45 Sholeh Aidil 21-15, 21-9, while world no. 60 Manjunath stunned eighth seed Magnus Johannesen of Denmark 21-12, 9-21, 21-17 in a 59-minute battle.

Tharun Mannepalli also entered the second round, beating Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen 22-20, 21-17.

But it was curtains for the likes Priyanshu Rajawat, Manraj Singh and S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian in their respective men's singles matches.

While Rajawat lost 21-15, 13-21, 20-22 against fourth seed and world no. 33 Brian Yang of Canada, Manraj was shown the door by China's Zhu Xuan Chen 21-16, 21-14.

Subramanian gave tough fight to fifth seed and world no. 37 Arnaud Merkele before losing 13-21, 21-14, 19-21.

In the women's singles, fast-rising Anmol Kharb beat Lo Sin Yan Happy of Hong Kong 21-12, 21-12 to enter the second round, but Tasnim Mir exited in the opening round losing 9-21 19-21 against fifth seed Huang Yu-Hsun of Chinese Taipei.

Kharb will next play Yu-Hsun in the next round.

Tanya Hemanth lost to seventh seed Julie Jakobsen of Denmark 11-21, 13-21.

Mithun Manjunath

Srishti clinches fourth consecutive title in Mexico

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's 13-year-old tennis star Srishti Kiran **(in pic)** continued her impressive run on the ITF junior circuit clinching her fourth consecutive ITF junior singles title with a strong, commanding performance at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 tournament in Huamantla, Mexico, held from 19-25 January 2026.

In the singles, Srishti stayed in control against Canada's Natalie Tsatsalashvili to win in straight sets 6-4, 6-1. Her journey to the title included 21 singles matches wins and a hard-fought semifinal against USA's Natalia Elena Martinez where she bounced back strongly after dropping the second set to emerge victoriously 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.

In the doubles, she partnered with Mexico's Tamara Herman as the top-seeded pair and finished as runners-up. The duo went down in a closely contested match to the American pair Christina Li and Natalia Elena Martinez 2-6, 6-4, 6-10 in the match tie-break to conclude an outstanding all-round week.

Katagi's ton in YMCA CC (2)'s big win

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL CRICKET

Abhishek Katagi's century, along with Siddalingappa and M Basavaraja's bowling efforts, gave YMCA Cricket Club (2) a massive 269-run win over Anglo Youth Cricket Association in the KSCA Group I, Division V League cum Knockout cricket tournament for the JB Mallaradhya Shield here.

Katagi's 97-ball 133, with 17 fours and six sixes, powered YMCA CC (2) to a massive 393/8 in 50 overs.

Chasing a daunting target, AYCA failed to measure up to the task as Siddalingappa (4/9) and Basavaraja (3/19) wreaked havoc to skittle them for 124 runs in 31 overs.

Brief scores: YMCA CC (2): 393/8 in 50 overs (Karan 30, Abhishek Katagi 133, Chirag GK 48, Navneeth N 36, M Basavaraja 28; Adarsh Shenoy 2-46, Govind Kumar 2-63, Bhagesh D Babar 2-78) bt Anglo Youth CA: 124 all out in 31 overs (Dhruv S Akki 26, Bhagesh D Babar 27; M Basavaraja 3-19, Siddalingappa 4-9).

Dooravani Cricketers (2): 204 all out in 47.1 overs (Amruth S 91; Yashwantha 2-46, Abhilash 3-33, Nataraj V 2-31) bt Anekal Town CC: 123 all out in 28.4 overs (Sridhar 37; Sampath Kumar M 2-21, Harsha B 2-21, Mahesh Patel BM 3-37, Suresh Ramanjunappa 2-14).

MES College: 221 all out in 50 overs (Vishwas Balaji V 45, Rakesh KS 26, Abhishek Sadashiva Suvarna 25, Nagarjun Sharma 26, Amogh RB 41; Sunil 4-41, Shashank R 2-35, Ashok K 2-48) bt Government Science College: 197 all out in 42.5 overs (Nithin RM 64, Sunil 80; Nagarjun Sharma 2-61, Fi Shariq Ahmed 3-39, Suhas R 2-1).

Crescent CC (2): 140 all out in 26.3 overs (Naveen Pandith N 39, Girish MS 29, Saatwik S Moolya 36; Yogesh 4-41, Koushik BP 4-31) lt to United CC: 142/5 in 29.3 overs (Naveen 36, Koushik BP 42 n.o.; KV Varun 4-18).

Karnataka Youth CA, Malur: 223/8 in 50 overs (Sagar MJ 46, Srujan Rajesh 28, Rakshith Kumar R 28, Namish P 35 n.o.; Mariya Williams T 2-31, Parikshit 2-37, Pradeep Bhaganna 2-36) bt Gary Cricketers: 113 all out in 36.3 overs (Koushal AR 27, Pradeep Bhaganna 26; Namish P 4-38, Ravikumar P 2-24, Rakshith Kumar R 2-20).

Young Boys CA: 148 all out in 32.5 overs (Rahul Dubey 39, Yatish Kumar BR 35, Someshwar Navallimath 26 n.o.; Srinivas Yadav 2-29, Dhruv Vasu 5-20) lt to Sri Jayachamarajendra CC: 152/2 in 28.5 overs (Veer V Katkol 69 n.o., Aaryansinh Chavda 44).

Johnson CC: 321/9 in 50 overs (Syed Muteeb Uddin 80, Aaryan Aiyappa 29, Praveen Balraj J 28, Chandrabose KR 78 n.o., BR Saurav Varma 26 n.o.; Deeraj K 4-73, Tarun Balamurugan 3-24) bt Canaerse CC: 179 all out in 35 overs (Mourya MC 31, Daiwik PM 40, Deeraj K 37 n.o.; Jayasurya M 2-23, Kishore V 4-47, BR Saurav Varma 2-21).

I-League to be renamed IFL

NEW DELHI, PTI: The I-League, the country's second-tier football competition, will be restructured and rechristened as Indian Football League (IFL), with the clubs becoming majority stakeholders in the venture from the upcoming season beginning February 21.

A decision to rechristen the I-League was taken during a meeting of the club representatives and All India Football Federation (AIFF) officials on Wednesday it was announced during a press conference.

The AIFF's Executive Committee is yet to approve the decision though it is just a formality.

"We have decided in today's meeting that the I-League will be restructured and rechristened as Indian Football League. It is a landmark decision, though it will need the approval from the AIFF Executive Committee," said Shillong Lajong owner Larsing Ming at the press conference.

The announcement came in the backdrop of a crisis in Indian football after the AIFF and its previous commercial partner FSDL failed to renew the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) beyond December 8 last year.

The top-tier Indian Super League (ISL) and the I-League were paused only to restart after the intervention of the sports ministry.

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586399 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

NO. KSIC/ACCTS/SOA/INS/2025-26 Date: 27.01.2026

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM INSURANCE COMPANIES FOR RENEWAL OF MARINE INSURANCE POLICY

Expression of interests are invited from reputed insurance companies to quote the competitive rate for Marine Insurance covering the risks occurable during goods-in transit for a period of one year. The goods to be transported should cover the place from HO/Reshmalaya/Bengaluru/ Mysuru/T.Narasipura/Chennapatana all our Showrooms/ Exhibitions/Cocoon markets to anywhere in India and vice versa, covering all risks by Road/Rail/Courier/Air. Details can be obtained from this office during working hours.

The Expression of Interest with full details shall be submitted to The Managing Director in sealed cover superscribing **"Expression of Ineterest for renewal of Marine Insurance Policy" to the above address on or before 02.02.2026.**

Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours i.e., **from 10:30 AM to 04:00 PM either personally or over phone No.080-25586550**

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER(F&A)

DIPR/CP/JA/5235/2025-26

Govt of Karnataka
Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayanagara,
Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Back side of SP Office, Hosapete

No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB/Tender/PB/Dif heads/2025-26/2181
Dated:27.01.2026

Short term tender Notification.
(Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Executive Engineer P.R.E.Divn, Hosapete Vijayanagara district has invited the Works Min Rs.15.00Lakhs to Max Rs.200.00Lakhs works Invites Short -term tenders (TN: , Dt:28.01.2026) as per KTPP-2000 act through e-procurement for the works category tenders in Vijayanagara Division under Different heads from the eligible agencies. According to the Standard Bid Document KW 1,2,3 & 4/Service rules and regulations (As per updating in the KPPP) based on turn-key.

For Annexure-I: Probable date of tenders publishing: 28.01.2026 & Last date of tenders submission: 07.02.2026 (5.00PM)

For Annexure-II: Probable date of tenders publishing: 28.01.2026 & Last date of tenders submission: 16.02.2026 (5.00PM)

(Auto Extension Specialty up to 4 Days after last date of tender)

Annexure I Indent Nos (Including Category works) : Harpanahalli Taluk : 22367, 22513, 22960, 22203, 22301, 22873, 22453, 22536, 22620, 22447, 22259, 22260, 22451, 22947, 22627, 22288, 22868, 22256, 22299, 22629, 22632, 22262 & 22866. H B Halli Taluk :22323, 23091 & 23092. Hadagali Taluk :22561, 22563, 22565, 22780 & 22781, Hosapete Taluk : 18904, 18905, 18907, 18909, 18910, 18911, 18912, 18914, 18915, 21769, 22687, 22740, 22683, 22680, 22665, 22672, 22677, 22674 and other indents

Annexure II Indent Nos : 22932, 22931, 22930, 22928, 22929, 22933, 22926, 22927, 22935 & 22934

Corrigendum's / modifications / correction, if any, will be published in the website only & for more information contact to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website and this office (email ID: eepredvijayanagara@gmail.com)

Sd/- EE.PRE.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/502

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26/6818 Date:27.01.2026

-ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION(KPP PORTAL):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item ratetenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1,2,3&4 Standard tender documents for a work under 2059 Dept Building Maintenance,2216 Dept & Judicial Quarters Maintenance, 3054 SH Road Maintenance, 3054 MDR Road Maintenance, 3054 SH Bridge Maintenance, 3054 MDR Bridge Maintenance, 4059 CMIDP Works, 4059 SCP/TSP Works 4059 Dept Buildings 5054 SH Improvements, 5054 MDR Improvements,8443 Deposit contribution total 76 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of Rs.5.08 Lakhs and Rs.391.49 Lakhs respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of Rs. 7,700/- and Rs.5,87,300/- Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on 05.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 06.02.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-2:Tender receipt Date is on 13.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 14.02.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-3:Tender receipt Date is on 17.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 18.02.2026 after 4.45 PM. For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 27.01.2026.(Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Belagavi Dn Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1708/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Annual Rate Contract for Washing & Pressing of Liveries of URSC and Health Centre, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, Bengaluru.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/30/2025-26 dated: 02/01/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 8.17 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 09/02/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 12/02/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs on 12/02/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG

Zilla Panchayath Kolar-563101
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Kolar-563101
Phone No: 08152-222570, e-mail: eepredkolar1@gmail.com
No: 23/2025-26 Date: 27.01.2026

Single/Two Cover System Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurment KW-II & III)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 2000 item rate tenders were invited in single/two cover system (SBD) in the forms KW-2&3 through e-procurement from authorized PWD contractors registered in appropriate class for the work of Improvements to city and village roads of Kolar, Malur & KGF Assembly Constituency in Kolar District under CMIDP grants. In the KW-2 & 3 forms Indent No: 21770 & 21757 (SC Reserved), Indent No: 21772 & 23679 (CAT-IIA) and Indent No : 23673, 23677, 23681, 23682 & 23687 are Genaral category works. Average Amount put to tender for each work is Rs. 32.56 to 84.59 lakhs The contractor's are requested for participate in e-Tender through GOK **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** last date for submission of tender application and uploading tender forms through website **dt: 13.02.2026 up to 4.00pm and date of opening of technical bids in e-portal on date: 16.02.2026 at 11.00 AM.** The eligible technically qualified contractors the date of opening of financial bids will be intimated. The notification can be obtained from the e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the above office on all working days in working hours. E-Procurement helpline No's for tender clarification with respect uploading and downloading you can contact: 91 9240214000 & +91 9240214001.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:463/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division,
2nd Cross Road, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar,
Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054.

No.EE/MLM/KPPP/14/2025-26 Date: 28.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Two Cover System).
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Bangalore West City Corporation (BWCC), invites Proposals through KPP Portal from eligibie bidder's long term leasing of BWCC Pedal Court in Sadashivanagar.

The Tender Schedule is as mentioned below: **INDENT No: BWCC/2025-26/SE0008/CALL-2.**

1.	Subject	Operation of BBMP Padel court in Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru
2.	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through KPP Portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**	04.02.2026 from 3:00p.m.
3.	Last date for seeking Clarification if any	10.02.2026 upto 3:00 p.m.
4.	Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue	12.02.2026 at 3:00p.m. Office of the Commissioner, BWCC, IPP Centre, 16th Cross Road, Vyalikaval, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003.
5.	Last date and time for uploading of tender in KPP Portal Platform	19.02.2026 upto 5:00p.m.
6.	Date and Time of opening of tenders: Technical Bid and Technical Evaluation	20.02.2026 at 5:30p.m.
7.	Contact Person for Queries	Assistant Revenue Officer (Estate) No.148A, 26th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.
8.	Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for Communicaiton	Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross Road, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru.
9.	EMD Amount	Rs.2,40,300/- payable in KPP Portal

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through KPP Portal System only in the manner described under instruction to Tenderers of RFP documents on or before the last and time Stipulated.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Malleshwaram Division, BWCC.

Sports Ministry warns state logo misuse

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Sports Ministry on Wednesday directed the national federations to desist from "unauthorised use" of the State Emblem and the insignia of the ministry as well as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) on their stationary and digital platforms, warning that violations would lead to suspension of recognition.

It is not unusual to find the logos of SAI and the ministry on the websites of national federations, mostly at the bottom of the home page to indicate affiliation. Even their stationary is adorned with these logos and the ministry's insignia features the State Emblem.

"It was observed that certain NSFs are using official government logos and emblems on their letterheads, websites, visiting cards, and other communication materials, thereby creating an incorrect impression of being a direct part of the Government of India or SAI.

"Such usage is unauthorised and contrary to the provisions of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011," the ministry stated.

The ministry has warned that any violation of these instructions will be viewed seriously and may result in appropriate action under existing guidelines and applicable laws, "including suspension of recognition or stoppage of financial assistance."

Bangla, Ned seal Women's T20 World Cup spot

KATHMANDU, PTI: Bangladesh and the Netherlands on Wednesday booked two of the four available spots at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 as the Super Six stage of the Qualifier got underway here.

The Netherlands will play in their first-ever T20 World Cup after quick scoring saw them to victory over the USA by the DLS method.

Bangladesh beat Thailand by 39 runs while the Netherlands won via DLS vs USA.

IN BRIEF

State girls begin with big win

▸ Karnataka opened their campaign on a rousing note by walloping past Manipur 100-8 in a Pool H game of the 72nd Women's Senior National Kabaddi Championship at the Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Sahaja gets wild card

▸ India's No.1 women's singles player Sahaja Yamalapalli was on Wednesday awarded a wild card entry into the main draw of the Mumbai Open -- a WTA 125k series event, starting February 2, reports PTI from Mumbai.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

WPL: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs UP Warriorz **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd T20I: South Africa vs West Indies **(9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports, JioHotStar.**

U-19 WC: South Africa vs Sri Lanka **(super six, 1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

Ranji Trophy: Punjab vs Karnataka, Haryana vs Bengal, Mumbai vs Delhi **(day 1, all 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

Australian Open: Women's semifinals **(2 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Aston Villa vs Salzburg, Nottingham Forest vs Ferencvaros, Panathinaikos vs AS Roma **(all 1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET FOURTH T20

India outplayed despite Dube blitz

Samson flops again as New Zealand post 50-run win

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

Shivam Dube flickered brightly with a fifty of exceptional quality but it was insufficient to prevent India's 50-run defeat against New Zealand in the fourth T20I here on Wednesday.

The clean-hitting Dube 65 (23 balls, 3x4, 7x6) batted all but his own in India's steep chase of 216, but the hosts eventually finished at 165 all out as the Kiwis reduced the margin to 3-1 in the five-match series.

With Ishan Kishan sitting out with an unspecified injury, Abhishek Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav were expected to lead the chase.

But Abhishek fell in the first ball of India's innings, skying Matt Henry to Devon Conway at deep point. Suryakumar's meek push was converted into a brilliant return catch by Jacob Duffy as India slumped to 9 for 2.

Rinku Singh (39) and Sanju Samson (24) tried to keep India afloat but they struggled to force the pace either in the Power Play or after that.

Rinku fell leg before to Zak Foulkes and Samson, who hit a delicious flicked six off Duffy, was foxed by Mitchell Santner's straight delivery to get castled.

Hardik Pandya too returned without any significant contribution as India further slipped to 82 for five in the 11th over, leaving Dube and Harshit Rana (9) to save the day.

Dube batted fearlessly, and hardly displayed the pressure of an ever-climbing asking rate that hovered around 14 almost all the while.

Dube, who was saved by DRS from a leg-before decision on 46, raised the hopes in the Indian camp, biffing 29 runs off leg-spinner Ish Sodhi's third over that included a sequence of 4, 6, 4, 6, 6.

The left-hander brought up his fifty in just 15 balls with a six over square leg off Duffy. The sixth wicket of Dube and Harshit Rana added 63 runs and the latter's contribution was a princely four runs.

But Dube's fortune finally deserted him when Rana's rasping straight drive shattered the stumps at non-striker's end after taking a deflection off Henry's hand. That effectively signalled the end of India's chase.

Earlier, New Zealand's innings revolved around Tim Seifert's blistering fifty. Seifert (62 off 36 balls, 7x4, 3x6) was the standout Kiwi batter but he did not have enough followers to fully drive home the advantage after India produced tight bowling in the middle overs.

Seifert, who joined the team after appearing in the recent Big Bash League, did not hide his intention, smoking Arshdeep Singh for three fours in a row, although two of them were off edges. But in the next over, the right-hander smashed Rana for a six over long-on, showcasing his muscle and timing.

In the pacer's next over, Seifert eked out a six and four in successive balls before sending a Jasprit Bumrah delivery to the sight-screen for another maximum. New Zealand reached fifty in the fourth over and ended the Power Play at 71 for no loss.

Seifert's frenetic innings also helped Devon Conway (44) to settle down and then have a go at the Indian bowlers. After meandering to 9 off 9 balls, the left-hander found his range, plundering two fours and a six off Ravi Bishnoi — a loft between long-on and mid-wicket, a square cut and a slog sweep.

Conway made 35 runs off the next 13 balls but soon holed out to Rinku Singh at deep cover off Kuldeep Yadav, as the home side snapped a 100-run opening wicket alliance.

Seifert soon completed a 25-ball fifty but India found a small creek on the door, and soon snaffled four wickets in the space of 37 runs to reduce the Kiwis to 137 for four in 13.4 overs.

India's Sanju Samson could only score a 15-ball 24 as India's chase of 217 unravelled in the fourth T20I played at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA stadium in Visakhapatnam. AFP

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	
Conway c Rinku b Kuldeep	44
Seifert c Rinku b Arshdeep	62
Rachin c & b Bumrah	2
Phillips c Rinku b Kuldeep	24
Chapman c Rana b Bishnoi	9
Daryl (not out)	39
Santner (run out)	11
Foulkes c Rinku b Arshdeep	13
Matt Henry (not out)	6
Extras (B-1, LB-1, W-3)	5
Total (For 7 wkts in 20 overs)	**215**

Fall of wickets: 1-100, 2-103, 3-126, 4-137, 5-152, 6-163, 7-182

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-33-2, Rana 4-0-54-0, Bumrah 4-0-38-1, Bishnoi 4-0-49-1, Kuldeep 4-0-39-2.

INDIA	
Abhishek c Conway b Henry	0
Samson b Santner	24
Suryakumar c & b Duffy	8
Rinku lbw Foulkes	39
Pandya c Foulkes b Santner	2
Dube (run out)	65
Rana c Rachin b Sodhi	9
Bishnoi (not out)	10
Arshdeep c Santner b Sodhi	0
Bumrah c Sodhi b Santner	4
Kuldeep c Seifert b Duffy	1
Extras (W-3)	3
Total (all out in 18.4 overs)	**165**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-9, 3-55, 4-63, 5-82, 6-145, 7-157, 8-157, 9-162

Bowling: Henry 3-0-24-1, Duffy 3.4-0-33-2, Foulkes 3-0-29-1, Sodhi 4-0-46-2, Santner 4-0-26-3, Phillips 1-0-7-0.

Result: New Zealand won by 50 runs. **Series:** India lead the 5-match series 3-1. **PoM:** Tim Seifert. **5th T20I:** Thiruvananthapuram (Jan 31).

Suryakumar jumps, Abhishek holds top spot

DUBAI, PTI: India captain Suryakumar Yadav on Wednesday climbed five places to seventh in the ICC men's T20I rankings following a prolific run in the ongoing five-match home series against New Zealand, which India currently lead 3-0.

The former No.1 batter struck scores of 32, 82 not out and 57 not out to climb the table, as India dominate the upper reaches of the rankings with Abhishek Sharma at the summit and Tilak Varma in third position, just 10 days out from the T20 World Cup.

Ishan Kishan, who hit 76 off 32 balls in the second match in Raipur has re-entered the rankings in the 64th position while Shivam Dubey (up nine places to 58th) and Rinku Singh (up 13 places to 68th) are among other batters to gain from the top-ranked T20I side.

In the T20I bowling rankings, Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman's haul of four for 21 in the second match against the West Indies sees him gain five places and reach ninth position, while India's Jasprit Bumrah (up four places to 13th) and Ravi Bishnoi (up 13 places to 19th) have progressed along with South Africa's Corbin Bosch (up eight places to a career-best 32nd).

Markram powers Proteas to massive win

PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA), AFP: Aiden Markram powered South Africa to a nine-wicket win in the first Twenty20 international against the West Indies at Boland Park on Tuesday.

The South African captain hit nine fours and three sixes in a career-best 86 not out off 47 balls as the hosts chased down a competitive West Indian total of 173 for seven with 13 balls to spare.

An opening partnership of 83 off 47 balls with Lhuandre Pretorius (44) set the tone before Ryan Rickelton joined Markram and made 40 not out in an unbeaten second-wicket stand of 93 off 62 balls.

The three-match series is the final preparation for both teams before the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next month.

South Africa rested several players who were involved in the SA20 franchise final on Sunday, including first-choice opening batsman Quinton de Kock.

Brief scores: West Indies: 173/7 in 20 overs (Brandon King 27, Shimron Hetmyer 48, Rovman Powell 29 n.o.; George Linde 3-25, Keshav Maharaj 2-44, Corbin Bosch 2-35) lt to South Africa: 176/1 in 17.5 overs (Lhuan-dre Pretorius 44, Aiden Markram 86 n.o., Ryan Rickleton 40 n.o.) by 9 wkts.

Series: South Africa lead 3-match series 1-0.

PoM: George Linde.

Second T20I: Jan 29 (Centurion).

Sprinter Manikanta aims for unprecedented 10.10-second mark

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Manikanta Hoblidhar is currently training at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga indoor stadium for Asian Indoor Championships.

Indian sprinting made new ground last year as the national records improved twice in the season. More importantly, Indians finally breached the 10.20-second mark.

To understand the importance, it took the nation 20 years to shave off 0.10 seconds since Anil Kumar Prakash clocked 10.30 in 2005.

Animesh Kujur hogged most of the limelight as he reset the national record at 10.18 seconds. Karnataka's Manikanta Hoblidhar, meanwhile, slipped under the radar as the 24-year-old former national record holder clocked 10.19 seconds twice in the year. (His 10.19 in the Inter-Service Athletics Championships wasn't registered officially as the event is not certified by the Athletics Federation of India).

Following the highs, Manikanta, who was India's fastest sprinter for two seasons at 10.23 (2023-2024), has set his sight on the 100m national record once again, setting the bar high for himself. "It's a crucial year with the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games coming up. Winning medals is not easy there and that's why I am targetting 10.10 seconds for the season and be among the medallists at Asiad. Given my form last season, I am confident of achieving it since I had a strong 2025 season," Manikanta told *DH* from Bhubaneswar.

AFI has also set the standard high to qualify for the Asian Games for sprinters as a new national record of 10.16 will be needed to directly qualify for the quadrennial event. For Manikanta, who is hopeful of getting a grant of Rs 10 lakh from the Karnataka government under its new Target Olympic Medal Scheme for the crucial year, the immediate attention is on the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

The event is slated in China's Tianjin on February 6-8 and Manikanta is the sole Indian sprinter (for 60m flat) in the squad as the team is currently training in the preparatory camp at the Kalinga indoor athletics stadium.

All set for an indoor debut, Manikanta will be chasing the national record of 6.67 seconds (set by Elakiya Dasan in 2018 at the same event) and a strong show there on his indoor debut may set him up for the rest of the season. Starting the new season as early as February could also be an indication that the Indian army personnel is all set for another busy season after running 30-plus races across 100m, 4x100m relays and 200m.

Manikanta contradicts his coach, James Hillier, who often stresses the need to compete throughout the season, as the athlete wants to focus more on training and compete less to keep himself fresh for the big-ticket events.

"I don't want to race too much in the season because if I do that, I may not get much time for training. I have nothing against running but it's a crucial season and I will prefer to be in the best shape. However, I know my coach can decide better for me," he concluded.

RCB look to bounce back

VADODARA, PTI: Table-toppers Royal Challengers Bengaluru will look to make amends with the bat after two consecutive defeats and lock their berth in the final when they take on a depleted UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League here on Thursday.

RCB (10 points) are the only team confirmed for the WPL playoffs so far and a victory over UPW will seal a top-two finish in the points table along with a berth in the final.

On their part, facing an uphill task to remain in playoffs contention, UPW have been rocked by an injury to their leading run-getter Phoebe Litchfield (243 runs). Amy Jones has been named the replacement.

There's still work to be done for the Smriti Mandhana **(in pic)**-led side who notched up five wins on the trot to emerge head and shoulders above the rest, but two defeats since have indeed jolted their campaign.

RCB lost to Delhi Capitals when a collective batting failure resulted in a seven-wicket hammering.

The 2024 edition's winners were then headed for another heavy loss to Mumbai Indians on a benign wicket, slipping to 35/5 in a tall run chase but Richa Ghosh's explosive 50-ball 90 reduced the margin to a significant limit.

MI came out firing on all cylinders, riding Nat Sciver-Brunt's first-ever century of the tournament's history to set a 200-run target for RCB.

Women's Premier League Points Table

Teams	P	W	L	NRR	Pts
RCB (Q)	7	5	2	+0.947	10
GG	7	4	3	-0.271	8
MI	7	3	4	+0.146	6
DC	7	3	4	-0.164	6
UPW	6	2	4	-0.769	4

Karnataka in a do-or-die battle against Punjab

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

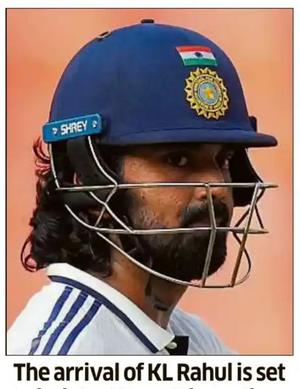
One wretched performance last week is all it took for Karnataka to undo all the good work in what appeared to be a promising Ranji Trophy campaign. Having dug themselves into a needless hole, the smarting eight-time champions now stare at a do-or-die scenario against Punjab in the final Elite Group B game starting Thursday in Mohali.

Leading the group after the first five games when the tournament broke for white-ball events, Karnataka fumbled badly upon resumption last week, suffering a 217-run pasting at the hands of Madhya Pradesh in Alur. That loss pushed Karnataka to third spot in the table with 21 points, while MP rose to second with 22. Maharashtra, who beat Goa by 8 wickets, jumped to pole position with 24.

When the final group games get underway on Thursday, all three teams and fourth-placed Saurashtra (19) remain in contention to grab the two quarter-final tickets.

For Karnataka, who have been bolstered by the arrivals of India internationals KL Rahul and Prasidh Krishna for the crunch game, the task is simple. If they beat laggards Punjab (11), then they will enter the knockouts irrespective of what happens in the other two contests — MP vs Maharashtra and Chandigarh vs Saurashtra.

However, if they are unable to defeat Punjab, they will have to hope that other results go their way, provided they take the first-inning lead, which is a must to remain in contention. If they do so, then they must hope Maharashtra beat MP or at least take the first-innings honours. A simple win for MP will cook Karnataka's goose if they can't win.



The arrival of KL Rahul is set to bolster Karnataka as they take on Punjab in a crunch clash starting Thursday.

ELITE GROUP B

	Teams	M	W	L	T	D	N/R	PT	Quotient
1	Maharashtra	6	3	0	0	3	0	24	1.487
2	Madhya Pradesh	6	2	0	0	4	0	22	1.282
3	Karnataka	6	2	1	0	3	0	21	1.422
4	Saurashtra	6	2	0	0	4	0	19	1.387
5	Goa	6	1	3	0	2	0	11	0.920
6	Punjab	6	1	2	0	3	0	11	0.705
7	Chandigarh	6	1	4	0	1	0	8	0.624
8	Kerala	6	0	2	0	4	0	8	0.677

Two-time champions Saurashtra too have an outside chance but they also need a victory and hope other results go their way.

"It's important that whatever we have in control, we try to do that well. That is our focus and try to play the best cricket, whatever is possible in all three departments," Karnataka coach Yere Goud told *DH*.

"We know the areas where we can improve from the last game. We don't want to go thinking too much and put unwanted pressure. Because that will invariably affect our decision-making on the field."

Goud confirmed that Rahul will open with Mayank Agarwal, who had to relinquish his captaincy to Devdutt Padikkal following the MP defeat. In all likelihood, KV Aneesh, the sole bright spot in the MP loss, will drop down a spot to No. 3 while Padikkal will bat at No. 4.

A final call on the bowling combination will be taken on the morning of the game because of the wet weather over the last few days in Mullanpur. Although no rain has been forecast for the duration of the match, foggy conditions and the fact that the pitch has been under cover in the build-up could play a part in whether they go with three of four seamers.

The spotlight will also be on 25-year-old Padikkal who has been thrust into the hot seat at a critical time. Personally, he has been in great form but the captaincy is bound to baptism by fire.

Group B fixtures: Karnataka vs Punjab; Madhya Pradesh vs Maharashtra; Goa vs Kerala; Chandigarh vs Saurashtra.

Bangla shooters to travel to India for Asian C'ships

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Bangladesh government has approved its shooters to travel to India for next month's Asian Rifle and Pistol Championships, days after refusing to send its national cricket team to the country to participate in the upcoming T20 World Cup due to security concerns.

While the T20 showpiece will be held in venues across India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8, the shooting event will take place at the Dr Karni Singh Range here from February 2 to 14, with 17 countries sending more than 300 shooters.

Bangladesh will field two rifle shooters, who will compete in a total of three events. There had been speculation that after Bangladesh pulled out of the global T20 cricket tournament, its shooting team might also withdraw over "security concerns".

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